

THE CROMWELL ARGUS

AND NORTHERN GOLD-FIELDS GAZETTE.

No. 6, Vol. I.)

CROMWELL, OTAGO: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1869.

(PRICE, SIXPENCE.)

Cromwell Advertisements



THE PEOPLE'S BAKERY.

J. SCOTT,

BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKER,

Melmore-street, Cromwell.

Families waited on for orders, and Bread regularly delivered in all parts of the district.

BRIDGE HOTEL, CROMWELL.

JOHN MARSH,

Of the Bridge Hotel, Cromwell,

IS DETERMINED TO GIVE VALUE FOR MONEY.



CROMWELL VETERINARY

SHOEING FORGE.

Next door to Smitham's Kawarau Hotel.

EDWARD LINDSAY,

(Late of Clyde and Melbourne),

GENERAL BLACKSMITH, FARRIER,

AND MACHINIST.

E. L. begs to inform the public of Cromwell

that he has purchased the business of Mr Thompson

and trusts by strict attention to business,

the execution of all work placed in his hands

in a first-class and workmanlike manner, to

the continuance of the support accorded his

Cromwell Advertisements

CROMWELL HOTEL,
CROMWELL.

ROBERT KIDD, - PROPRIETOR.

The travelling public and Commercial Gentlemen will find this the most convenient house to put up at in Cromwell. There are excellent bed, private sitting, and dining rooms, and attached to the establishment is a magnificent Billiard Saloon, and the largest hall for Concerts, Balls, or Theatrical Representations out of Dunedin.

Excellent Stabling, &c.

CROMWELL.

MR MANDERS,
LEGAL AND MINING AGENT.

Registered to practise in the Warden's Courts for the Dunstan Goldfields.

Agent for the Northern Fire and Life Insurance Company (capital Two Millions).



W. H. WHETTER,
BOOTMAKER,

MELMORE-STREET, CROMWELL.

A large and varied stock of Home and Colonial made Boots and Shoes on hand, to which attention is respectfully requested.

PRICES MODERATE.

DAGG'S

CLUTHA HOTEL,

CROMWELL.

Best Accommodation for Visitors.

PRETTY FAIR LIQUOR.

FIRST-CLASS STABLING.

GINGERBEER & CORDIALS.

TO THE INHABITANTS

OF THE

CROMWELL DISTRICT.

THE Undersigned begs leave to intimate to the public that he is prepared to supply them with GINGERBEER and CORDIALS, of a superior description, and at prices to defy competition.

GINGERBEER..... 3s. PER DOZ.

CORDIALS..... 20s. PER DOZ.

Encourage Local Industry, and Patronise

JOHN M. KELLY.

General Ad. Office, Cromwell.

Cromwell Advertisements

JUNCTION
COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
CROMWELL.

G. W. GOODGER,

PROPRIETOR.

IN returning thanks for past favors, begs to announce that neither trouble nor expense have been spared to render the above establishment second to none upon the Goldfields.

Being situated in the very centre of the town, it affords every convenience for Commercial Travellers and others visiting the Cromwell district.

The Bedrooms, Private Parlors, &c., Are fitted up with every regard to comfort and convenience.

The BILLIARD SALOON (the largest in the district) is provided with one of Alcock's Tables.

Extra attention has been bestowed upon the STABLING DEPARTMENT, and as it has been placed under the management of an experienced groom, the public may rely upon every care being taken of horses.

FOR SALE,

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY

AND

BAKERY BUSINESS



IN CROMWELL.

The undersigned beg to announce that they have decided on disposing of their well-known and old-established Business, as Bakers and General Storekeepers, together with the Freehold Section in Melmore-street, Cromwell, on which is erected—

BAKEHOUSE, SHOP, DWELLING HOUSE, AND STABLING.

Also,

FREEHOLD SECTION,

Situated on the hill immediately above Mr Smitham's Kawarau Hotel.

Owing to the largely increasing prosperity of the Cromwell District, the above is a splendid opening.

For Particulars, apply to

COSSAR & SMITH,

Cromwell.

SHAMROCK STORE,

CROMWELL.

WILLIAM SHANLEY & Co.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

WINE, SPIRIT, AND PROVISION

MERCHANTS.

A large and varied assortment of

WINES, SPIRITS, AND GROCERIES.

Goods delivered in all parts of the district.

Free of charge.

Cromwell Advertisements

KAWARAU HOTEL,
CROMWELL.

WILLIAM SMITHAM.....PROPRIETOR.

The best conducted and most comfortable Hotel in the District.

A FIRST-CLASS BILLIARD ROOM,
With one of Alcock's best Tables.

Coaches leave for Queenstown and Arrow every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9 a.m.; for Clyde every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 3.30 p.m.; and for Cardrona and Albertown every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

N.B.—W. S. having erected a large range of Stabling, would intimate to Travellers that every care will be bestowed upon horses. An experienced groom in attendance.

[A CARD.]

R. F. BADGER,
LEGAL AND MINING AGENT,

MELMORE-STREET,

CROMWELL;

AND AT BENDIGO GULLY.

[A CARD.]

JAMES CORSE, M.D.,
CROMWELL.

May be consulted daily at his residence,

MELMORE-STREET.

CROMWELL.



FREE TRADE BUTCHERY,

(Wholesale and Retail),

JAMES DAWKINS . PROPRIETOR.

A supply of Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Hams, Bacon, &c., always on hand.

Meat delivered at Town Prices throughout the district.

Kawarau Gorge Advertisements

DIGGER'S REST HOTEL,

KAWARAU GORGE.

NICHOLAS CAMPION,
Proprietor.

Wines and Spirits of the best description.

STABLING.

SLUICER'S ARMS HOTEL,

KAWARAU GORGE,

JOHN WRIGHTSON,
Proprietor.

GOOD ACCOMMODATION FOR TRAVELLERS.

GOOD STABLING. Three Loose Boxes, second to none.

BILLIARDS.

WHITE HART HOTEL,

KAWARAU GORGE,

(On the main road to Queenstown),

THOMAS HERON,
Proprietor.

General Ad. Office, Cromwell.

CROMWELL JOCKEY CLUB RACES.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY,

20th and 31st December 1869.

Stewards:

W. SMITHAM I. LOUGHNAN J. W. GARRETT
J. WRIGHTSON J. DAWKINS J. COWAN
W. J. BARRY J. A. FRESHAW T. LOGAN.

Judge:

R. LOUGHNAN.

Starter:

J. DAWKINS.

Treasurer:

J. A. FRESHAW.

Clerk of the Course:

W. J. BARRY.

Secretary:

ROBERT E. DACE.

FIRST DAY, THURSDAY,

Dec. 30.

Maiden Plate

Of 30 sovs., for all horses that have never won an advertised race (hack and matches excepted). Weight for age. Distance, a mile and a-half. Entrance £2 2s.

Town Plate

Of 75 sovs. Weight for age. Distance, three miles. Entrance £4 4s.

Hurdle Race

Of 30 sovs. Twice round the Course—about three miles. Over eight flights of hurdles. No weight less than 10st 11b. Entrance £2 2s.

Publicans' Purse Handicap

Of 40 sovs., with a sweepstake of £1 1s, the sweepstakes to go to the second horse. Distance, two miles. Nomination, with £1 1s, to be sent in on or before Monday, 20th December; acceptance, with £2 2s, on the night of general entry. Weights to be declared as in District Handicap.

Hack Race

Of 15 sovs. One mile; heats. No weight less than 10st 11b. Post Entry, £1 1s.

SECOND DAY, FRIDAY,

Dec. 31.

Miners' Purse

Of 15 sovs. For all untrained horses. No horse allowed to run that has won over £20 of public money. No weights less than 10st 11b. One mile heats. Post Entry, £1 1s.

District Handicap

Of 100 sovs. Sweepstakes of £2 2s each; second horse to receive the amount of sweepstakes. Nominations, with £2 2s, to be made on or before Monday, 20th December. Acceptance, £3 3s, to be paid the night of general entry. Weights to be declared on the 23rd December. Distance, 2½ miles. Winner of Town Plate to carry 5lbs penalty.

Ladies' Purse

Of 30 sovs. Two miles. Gentleman riders. Welter Weights for age. Entrance, £2 2s, to be paid on the night of general entry.

Handicap Trotting Race

Of 15 sovs. Three miles. Post Entry, £1 1s.

Consolation Handicap

Of 20 sovs. For all beaten horses. Mile and a-half. Entrance, £1 1s.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. No entry will be received unless upon these conditions—That all disputes, claims, and objections arising out of the races shall be decided by the Stewards, or a majority of them, whose decisions upon all points connected with the carrying out of the programme shall be final.

2. No person shall enter or nominate a horse unless he is a subscriber of not less than £2 2s. to the Race Fund. Moreover, no one to enter or nominate a horse not his bona fide property, unless the said subscription of £2 2s. be paid for the actual owner, under penalty of forfeiting any race such horse may win.

3. The entries to be sealed, addressed to the Secretary Cromwell Jockey Club, and forwarded to him on or before the 20th December, at eight p.m., entrance money to be enclosed, with name, age, and pedigree (if any) of the horse, name of the owner, and the colours of the rider.

The Rules of the Dunstan Jockey Club will be strictly adhered to.

First prize will be deducted from all winners.

The English Mail.

(From the Daily Times telegrams.)

LONDON, OCTOBER 18th.

The annual Social Science Congress met at Bristol, Sir Stafford Northcote being chairman. The subject of the mutual relationship of England and her colonies was discussed, and it was stated that their object was not to loosen, but to strengthen the bond between England and the colonies. Several papers on the subject were read, and the Duke of Manchester sent a letter suggesting that the colonies should have a voice in the government of the Empire.

Mr Daniel Clunie, Mr Fairlie's agent, intends visiting Australia to introduce the latter's cheap system of railway construction.

Earl Granville has rebuked the colony of Queensland regarding its slave trade. Alderman Besley has been elected Lord Mayor of London.

A labourer near Cashel has been murdered, as also has a bailiff in County Longford, and Mr Nicholson, of Kells, has been fired at and wounded.

At the demonstration of republicans in Trafalgar Square, Mr Moore, M.P., made an inflammatory speech against the Throne.

The Irish land question will be dealt with during the next session of Parliament.

The preliminary steps for the reconstruction of the Irish Church have been taken.

Earl Clarendon has had a confidential conference with the French Emperor. Since returning to England he has said that at no time since the war between Prussia and Austria have we had fairer prospects of maintaining peace.

The Lancashire manufacturers demand more and cheaper cotton. The depressed condition of trade is asserted to be owing to the fact that while the outlets for manufactures have contracted, the manufacturing power of Lancashire has vastly increased since 1860.

Nothing came of Lieutenant Saxby's predictions of high tides on 6th October.

A succession of equinoctial gales prevailed from the 7th to the 14th September. One hundred and twenty vessels were destroyed, and hundreds damaged, the loss of life being very heavy.

Mr Jonathan Judge, shipbuilder, of Bromley, Middlesex, being out of employment, killed himself, his wife, and two children, with the fumes of charcoal.

Woodwich dockyard is now closed.

The Byron controversy has exhausted itself. Mrs Stowe promises a reply in Macmillan's Magazine.

A telegram from San Francisco reports the discovery of a mutilated document on the beach at San Buena Ventura, relating to Sir John Franklin and his party. Captain Hall, the Arctic explorer, has returned after a five years' absence. He reports that he discovered several skeletons of Franklin's party at King William's Land. He brings numerous relics with him.

The Thermopylae has arrived from China in 88 days, being the shortest passage on record.

The wreck of the fine steamer Carnatic caused a fall of £2 per share in the P. and O. Company's shares. £38,000 worth of specie was on board.

Lady Palmerston was buried in Westminster Abbey beside her husband.

The Pope has granted Dr Cumming's application for permission to attend the Ecumenical Council, but says that the Church cannot re-open discussion on points already determined.

COMMERCIAL.

The exports to New Zealand show an increase, as compared with last month, of £38,561.

The third series of wool sales closed on September 21st. The total number of bales sold was 193,982, 8000 being withdrawn for an advance.

New Zealand and Port Philip fleeces advanced from 1d to 1½d; greasy, ½d to 1d; Sydney, 1d to 1½d. Long staple greasy is in demand.

The quantity taken for export is 75,000 bales. The quantity held over for next sales is 30,000 bales, chiefly New Zealand. Speculators sent large quantities of gold to New York, to share in operations there. Several New York speculators failed, and the bubble burst, leaving many Lombard-street participants losers of great amounts. It is expected that half a million will be returned from America.

The revenue returns for the year ending September 30th amount to £73,262,737, showing an increase of £3,000,000 on the previous year. The Board of Trade returns for August show an increase of £937,094.

AMERICA.

The war in Paraguay has terminated, Lopez being completely vanquished.

Mr Sumner has moderated his tone with regard to the Alabama claims.

The Harvard crew have been publicly banqueted in New York.

A filibustering expedition has escaped from American ports for Cuba.

Prince Arthur has been everywhere received by the Canadians with demonstrations of loyalty.

CONTINENTAL.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon's abdication has been seriously discussed. The Prince Imperial being only 14 years of age, the name of Prince Napoleon has been mentioned as regent; or, if the Emperor were succeeded by his son at once, the former would be President of the Council.

A tremendous explosion of petroleum has occurred on board a lighter at Bordeaux. It destroyed 20 vessels, besides other property.

SPAIN.

The Duke of Genoa, now studying at Harrow, is the latest candidate for the Spanish throne.

A formidable insurrection took place in Spain during the month. The Republican party made a determined resistance at Saragossa, and assassinated the acting Governor. The insurrection spread to Barcelona, and then throughout Catalonia, and also through several other Provinces. Martial law was proclaimed, and peace was eventually restored after some severe fighting.

BELGIUM.

The *Tir National* at Liege was a grand success. About 1000 English volunteers were present, besides a large number of competitors from other countries. At the long ranges the English marksmen were the most successful.

CHINA.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 12.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Tientsin, and proceeded to Peking, accompanied by Admiral Keppel. The *Galatea* is expected to arrive at Shanghai on the 20th.

Shanghai has been much excited by absurd rumours that Chinamen had been killed by foreigners and buried under the new church. An immense crowd assembled, and a riot was imminent; but the authorities succeeded in maintaining order.

NEW ZEALAND ITEMS.

Bishop Selwyn's illness was serious, but he is now slowly recovering.

Mr J. B. Smales, M.A., a native of New Zealand, died on September 16th, of consumption.

Mr John Ewen sends by the *Warrior* Queen, for Otago, a collection of birds, chiefly partridges and pheasants. The Earl of Dalhousie has promised to send some red deer.

A dispatch from Lord Granville to the New Zealand Government, published on the 7th October, declares that the Imperial Government adheres to the policy that the Queen's troops are not to be employed in the hostilities between the colonists and the natives. The removal of the 18th Regiment is insisted on, and the men are ordered to embark without delay.

The Nelson, Coblen, and Westport Railway is in a fair way of becoming an established fact within a short time. Sir Thomas Poryn, and Colonel Maude, C.B., V.C., have lodged with Mr Morrison, the London Agent of the colony, a proposition to undertake the necessary works, surveying, &c., and to act on such terms as, it is believed, will be accepted.

A quantity of wreck has been washed ashore at Exmouth. It is believed to indicate the destruction of the *Red Jacket*, which left Cardiff for Bombay in September, with a cargo of coal.

Latest Telegrams.

LONDON, Oct. 22.

Public opinion approves of the refusal of the Government to release the Fenian prisoners in Ireland. An amnesty demonstration takes place in Hyde Park next Sunday.

The prospectus has been issued of the British India Telegraph Company, to connect Ceylon with Singapore, and ultimately with Australia.

Dr Livingstone is safe at Ujiji, having discovered the true source of the Nile.

Serious disturbances have occurred in the Persian Gulf. The Arabs fired upon the British gunboat *Muscot*. The *Daphne* has proceeded thither to punish the offenders.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have returned from Wildbad. The acconchment of the Princess is expected at the end of November.

The agitation for the release of the Fenian prisoners is spreading in Ireland.

The Bishop of Exeter died on September 18th; the Bishop of Oxford is his successor. The Bishop of Carlisle is also dead; Dr Goodwin has been appointed his successor.

Mr Patton, Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, has committed suicide by drowning himself, at his estate in Perthshire.

Lord Napier of Magdala will obtain the chief command of the Indian army next year.

Pere Hyacinthe, the celebrated French preacher, has denounced the Pope's attempt to divorce modern thought from the Church. He has resigned his pulpit at Notre Dame.

The Messrs McColl, the Australian preserved meat merchants, are insolvent. Their liabilities are estimated at £50,000.

Obituary.—Earl Kingston, Sir W. C. Anstruther, Dr Peters, Mark Roget, M.D., Sir Thomas Graham (Master of the Mint), Dr Emerton, Lord Mackenzie (Scotland), and Lord Cranston.

A Scene at Baden-Baden.

A correspondent of the *Globe* at Baden writes:—"A new *gros joueur* has come to the tables. He is a Major H—, an American, and is, it is said, immensely rich. On Sunday evening he played high, putting gold pieces of 100 francs (£4) each on the greater part of the *roulette* numbers, and sometimes several pieces on a number. Not only did he play high, but he played long. A crowd collected around the table to see his operations, manifesting almost curiosity therein. Now and then he made a lucky hit, but the chance was against him, and he lost heavily. As he changed note after note for gold, and as the gold was swept to the bank, he became a little excited. At last he took *en grippe* the croupier who turned the wheel, and told him he should be glad to see him go away. 'At ten o'clock precisely a colleague will relieve me!' answered the man. The American played again, and lost. 'Are you still there?' he said to the croupier. 'In ten minutes I go!' Another *coup*—another, and another. 'And yet there are still five minutes more!' Other *coups* followed, with the same result. At last the five minutes were up, and the croupier retired. The player heaved a sigh of satisfaction, thinking the new man would give him better luck. Vain hope! He literally covered the table with gold. When he had done, '*Rien ne va plus*!' exclaimed the croupier, and a few seconds after, a long rake was scraping up the American's money. Yesterday afternoon there was a crowd unusually large at one of the *roulette* tables. The American was playing again, and, if possible, more wildly than on the preceding night. But fortune, like the fickle dame she is, was as favorable to him as she had been unfavorable before. An Englishman who had watched his play for two hours, told me that, as nearly as he could calculate, his winnings amounted to, if they did not exceed, £4000. When I arrived he had an enormous pile of 1000fr. notes, and heaps of large gold (£4) pieces. So great and constant was his luck that the bystanders expected the bank to be broken. He himself seemed to count on that result (the 'blue ribbon' of the gambler!) for at one moment he called on the croupier to prove that they had the means of paying the stakes he risked; and they gave the proof by showing him a roll of notes. Afterwards *coup* followed *coup* in rapid succession, and most of them were favourable to him. Some of his hits were really extraordinary, and excited a murmur of pleasure—the gallery! at a gaming table liking to see the bank lose. One of these hits produced about £400, on a stake of less than £10. How this was done can easily be calculated by persons who know the rules of *roulette*; and to those who know them not, an explanation not an explanation would be unintelligible. When his success became so striking, the 'gallery' was anxious to see him leave off. 'If he goes on playing he will lose all!' 'The foolish man! Why does he not content himself with what he has?' 'Has he no friend to take him away?' These and the like exclamations I heard around me in both English and French. At last the American puts his notes (each of £10) in order, but finding the heap too big to go conveniently into his pocket-book, he divided it into two. Then he took five or six notes, and said that they should be the last he should play. He turned them into gold, staked the coins, and lost. Thereupon he went away. Two hours after, however, he began again, but with what result I did not hear. This bold player is a young man of about thirty-five years of age, and is very good-looking."

A Sermon on "Dress."

You wish to dress your wife better than your circumstances will allow. She wants to have you. She is a woman of spirit, as it is said, and she does not mean to be a drudge. "Why should our neighbours," she says to her husband, "dress any better than we? They are made of the same flesh and blood that we are. See how they come out. I don't think a man of any spirit would let his wife and children go to church dressed as you let us go. Look at these children. You would think that they had just come out of some s'op-house! If I had married as I might have married, we should have had different times—I and my children!" How many men are stung to the quick by such remarks from their wives! Oftentimes their moral sense revolts, at first, and they feel indignation; but "continual dropping wears a stone"; and by-and-bye the man is dressed a little better than he can afford; and somebody must pay for the extravagance. I do not say that they are tempted to steal; but I do say that they grind. They seem somehow to get it out of the milliner, out of the dressmaker, or out of the merchant. They intend to make one hand wash the other somehow, and they go into petty meannesses to bring it about. And this desire to dress better than they can afford is taking off the very enamel of virtue, and taking out the very stamina of their religious life. Unimportant as it seems, ostentatious vanity in dress has ruined many a family, and damned many a soul!—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

Marriage in the Death Chamber.

Marriages in *extremis* are not unfrequent in France, and the plot of many novels turns upon them. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* gives the particulars of a case in which the validity of a union of the kind at the very last moment is the question awaiting the decision of the Civil Tribunal at Tonnerre. Some few months ago, the Procureur Imperial of that town was roused up in the dead of night by a man on horseback, who said he had ridden at full speed from the country house of M. Humbert, who was at the point of death, desired to be married immediately, and begged the Procureur to allow the civil officer to celebrate the marriage at his bedside without the usual formalities. The Procureur answered out of his window that he could not do what was asked at the mere instigation of a messenger whom he did not know, but that if a certificate were brought from the mayor of the village in which M. Humbert lived, he would grant the dispensation. The messenger "spared not for the spoiling of his horse," but dashing back, woke up the mayor, returned to Tonnerre, and was so successfully active that before daybreak there were assembled in the death-chamber a member of the Municipal Council, delegated by the mayor to perform the civil service, the curé of the parish, and two witnesses. Kneeling down at the side of the bed, in an agony of grief and suspense, was a woman who, for eighteen years, had lived with M. Humbert (one of the wealthiest landholders in the neighbourhood) as his mistress. A young girl, the issue of the marriage, was also in the room, and the object of the marriage was to confer upon her the status of legitimacy, as the French, like the Scotch law, allows *per subsequens matrimonium*. The marriage was gone through, and two hours afterwards the husband expired. He left behind him a fortune of 800,000fr., every son of which will go to the widow and daughter if the marriage be held valid, as in all probability it will be. The disappointed blood relations, who had taken it for granted that the inheritance will come to them, have brought an action to have the marriage declared null and void. M. Allon, for them, argued that the marriage was bad, first, as clandestine; and second, because M. Humbert was too near death at the time to be able to give a valid consent. M. Laubaud pleaded for the widow and child. The court at once overruled the objection on the ground of clandestinity, holding that the dispensation of the Procureur-Imperial was sufficient, but it reserved final judgment until after an enquiry as to whether at the moment of the marriage M. Humbert had sufficient consciousness to know what he was doing.

Velocipede-Riding Extraordinary.

The *New York Tribune* of the 22nd July says:—"Mr A. P. Meissenger, last night at eleven, accomplished the extraordinary feat of riding 500 miles on a velocipede inside of 50 consecutive hours. Mr Meissenger failed some months ago in the attempt to ride 100 miles in ten consecutive hours. Since that time a great deal has been said of his powers of endurance, and his ability to ride a longer distance than 100 miles. Last week a purse of 250 dollars was made up. The conditions were simply that he should ride 500 miles in 50 consecutive hours. The Central Hall Velocipede School, in the Bowery, presenting the largest space for riding, was the place selected to ride in. Meissenger commenced at 8.50 on Monday night, and made his first 10 miles in 39 minutes, second ten in 38 minutes, third 10 in 40 minutes, fourth ten in 39 minutes, and fifth 10 in 40 minutes—thus making the first 50 miles in 3 hours and 37 minutes, the best 50 miles on record. His first 100 miles were done in 7 hours and 20 minutes; the second hundred in 8 hours and 42 minutes; third 100 in 9 hours and 20 minutes; fourth 100 in 9 hours and 33 minutes; and fifth 100 in 8 hours and 42 seconds. His next to the last five miles was made in the extraordinary time of 18 minutes and 2 seconds; his last five miles in 22 minutes and 6 seconds; last mile in 4 minutes and 18 seconds, coming in 12 minutes ahead of time. His actual running time for 500 miles was 42 hours and 33 minutes, being an average of a little over four minutes to the mile. From the 480th to the 488th miles he averaged but 3 minutes and 22 seconds to the mile. He had to make twenty circuits of the room to each mile: therefore to accomplish the 500 miles he was obliged to make 10,000 circuits of the room and turn 40,000 corners. By actual weight Meissenger immediately after the completion of the task weighed less by seven pounds than he did when he started."

A dividend of £20 per scrip was paid on the 18th ult. to the shareholders in the Golden Crown claim. It was only about 16 days previous that a dividend of £30 per scrip was paid. Towards the end of the month there was to be another large dividend.

The Provinces.

The *Coromandel* correspondent of the *Shortland Times* gives the following account of the polling at that place for Superintendency election:—"At the early part of the morning there were but few people about, and the polling went on slowly and quietly; but as the day advanced, little knots began to gather round the centre of attraction, discussing the probabilities of the contest. The lead was taken by Mr Williamson, and kept throughout the day. The day would have passed off quietly, but for the attempt of a few to kick up a row, in which they were very nearly successful. One of Mr Gillies's check-clerks had occasion to swear one or two of Mr Williamson's voters as to their right to vote, and a cry was immediately raised by some near the door to 'pull him out.' A rush was made into the Court-house, which the one constable tried to stem in vain, and some of the doors were closed. The check-clerk received several severe blows about the head and body, when the Messrs Ring, Copeland, Tierney, and others, succeeded in clearing the place, and the poll was adjourned for quarter of an hour. By this time, things were a little quieter, and no further interruption occurred to the business. When the poll was over and the same check-clerk was leaving the place, a rush was made at him by three or four, and he was knocked down and kicked. Some of the miners came to his help, and he was permitted to walk away. There was but a small quantity of drinking going on, except with a few. The large majority soon dispersed to their homes."

We find the following in a Wellington paper:—"The Blue Ensign, with the letters N.Z. in one corner, has been, since 1867, adopted as the New Zealand flag, and some discussion has been raised by the Imperial authorities as to the right of colonial vessels to fly it. A correspondence has taken place on the subject, which has resulted in the right to use the Blue Ensign being accorded to the Colony. By proclamation in a Gazette of the 23rd inst., the temporary badge, consisting of the letters N.Z., is discontinued, and it is appointed that the seal or badge in future to be worn as distinctive by all vessels employed in the service of the Colonial Government of New Zealand shall be the Southern Cross, as represented in the Blue Ensign by four five-pointed red stars in the fly, with white borders to correspond to the colouring of the Jack; in the Jack by four five-pointed white stars on the red ground of the St. George's Cross; and in the Pendant by four stars near the staff similar to those in the Ensign."

A great fire took place at Westport on the night of the 4th December, by which the principal places of business were totally destroyed. The block destroyed is in Gladstone-street, and extends from the premises of Messrs Fleming and Murray, drapers, to those of Messrs Southern, drapers, both inclusive. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at £15,000, none of which is covered by insurance. The fire was caused by the bursting of a kerosene lamp in the shop of Mr Ouslow, draper.

A mysterious paragraph recently appeared in the *West Coast Times*, respecting an alleged discovery of a rich quartz reef, specimens of which had been brought into Hokitika. With regard to this discovery, the *Grey River Argus* says:—"We are in a position to state that the discovery in question was made by Mr F. B. Von der Sloot, within thirty miles of Hokitika, up one of the tributaries of the Hokitika River. With one mate, he has been prospecting for eight weeks, and has followed the reef for miles. At first there was no gold, then gold was seen in the quartz, which was followed through the granite; then a rich specimen of auriferous quartz, water-worn, was found in one of the leading creeks, and now the men are prospecting to find the reef in the slate. They are confident that within a month they will be able to lay bare a magnificent quartz-reef, but as yet they are naturally disinclined to make known the precise locality, as no leases are granted by the County Council, and the ground would be at once rushed."

It will be seen from our Tauranga correspondent's letter (says the *Auckland Weekly Herald*) that there has been another case of selling ammunition to the natives, and that the offender has been committed for trial. Our correspondent says:—"Thomas Short, who was committed for trial for selling ammunition to a native, is an old soldier, formerly of the 57th Regiment. Drink, from the effects of which he was evidently suffering at the time of hearing, appears to have been the incentive to the crime with which he is charged. He is said to have borne a good character in his regiment, from which he was pensioned. It is noticeable that the last offence of this nature, where a commitment took place at Tauranga, was perpetrated by a discharged soldier of the 57th Regiment."

The *Shortland Times* states that on the arrival of the steamer at Graham, with the returns for the North, the majorities for Mr Gillies, "the sustaining the names of the places, and the numbers polled was very small, and the numbers pulled down and torn into small and scattered in all directions."

Dunedin Advertisements.

THOMAS WINSTANLEY'S
ANDINAVIAN HOTEL,
 MACLAGGAN-STREET,
DUNEDIN.
 (Late of the National Hotel, Clyde.)
 First-class accommodation for Travellers.
 SINGLE AND DOUBLE BEDROOMS.
 The choicest brands of Wines, Beers, and Spirits.
 One of the best Billiard Tables.

HAY BROTHERS,
TAILORS & OUTFITTERS,
 PRINCES-STREET,
 DUNEDIN,
 (Between Messrs Paterson & McLeod's and the
 Criterion Hotel).

As our Stock is extremely well assorted
 in every department,
 We have great pleasure in inviting the Inhabi-
 tants of the Province to inspect it,
 And we feel assured that all those who will be
 kind enough to favour us with a visit,
 Will be forced to acknowledge that for Quality,
 Style, and Cheapness,
 It will (to say the least of it) compare favourably
 with any other in New Zealand.

Our great
 Motto in
 conducting
 our business
 is to give such
 VALUE to our
 Customers as to
 induce them to
 come back again,
 thus making their
 interest and ours
 IDENTICAL.
 Our past success
 is the best proof
 that this leading
 principle has been
 fully appreciated by
 the inhabitants of the
 Province of OTAGO.

Please Note the Address:

HAY BROTHERS,
TAILORS & OUTFITTERS,
 PRINCES-STREET,
 DUNEDIN,
 (Between Messrs Paterson & McLeod's and the
 Criterion Hotel).

WHEELER'S
ADVERTISING AGENCY,
 STAFFORD STREET, DUNEDIN.

R. T. WHEELER,
 Collector, Advertising and General Commission
 Agent.
 Agent for the CROMWELL ARGUS, Dun-
 edin Times, Hokitika Leader, Hawke's Bay
 Herald, Lyttelton Times, Marlborough Press,
 Nelson Mail, Southland Times, Tasepa Times,
 Oamaru Herald, Taranaki Herald, Panama Star
 and Herald, Waikouaiti Herald, Wakatip Mail
 West Coast Times, Wairarapa Mercury, &c.
 Note the Address:—Wheeler's Advertising
 Agency, Stafford-street, Dunedin.

EAST TAHERI HOTEL,
 EAST TAHERI.

ENWICK PROPRIETOR.

Wines and Spirits of the best brands.

ing Place of Cobb and Co.'s Coaches.

Dunedin Advertisements.

RATRAY-STREET
FURNITURE WAREHOUSE,
 Adjoining the Shamrock Hotel,
DUNEDIN.
THOMAS DICKSON,
 CABINETMAKER AND UPHOLSTERER,
 Has always on hand a large and choice assort-
 ment of
FURNITURE
 COMPRISING
 Dining-room chairs, tables, sofas
 Couches, easy-chairs
 Bed-room chests of drawers
 Dressing tables and glasses, all sizes
 Washstands, commodes, bedsteads
 Palliasses, hair mattresses, all sizes
 Flock and flax mattresses.
 American chairs, all kinds, cheap.
FURNITURE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
MADE TO ORDER.
 Country orders promptly attended to, and
 Furniture carefully packed.

OTAGO FOUNDRY
 [Established 1859.]
WILLIAM WILSON,
ENGINEER, BOILER-MAKER
 IRON FOUNDER, & BLACKSMITH,
 Cumberland-street,
DUNEDIN.

Castings in Brass or Iron.
 Steam Engines and Boilers made and repaired.
 Overshot and Breast Water-wheels of Iron and
 Wood.
 Quartz-crushing Machinery.
 Pumping and Winding Gear.
 Cast-iron Sluice and Ripple Plates.
 Sheet-iron Hopper-plates punched to any size.
 Gold-dredging Spoons.
 Machinery for Flour, Oatmeal, and Barley Mills.
 Reaping, Threshing, and Horse-power Ma-
 chines made and repaired.
 Fire-proof doors and safes.
 Price's Flax-dressing Machines made.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
CABINET AND FURNITURE
WAREHOUSE,
 Opposite Hay Brothers and Wright's,
 PRINCES-STREET,
 Dunedin.
WILLIAM KEY, PROPRIETOR.

Orders punctually attended to, and carefully
 packed for the country.

THE CROMWELL ARGUS is regu-
 larly filed for reference, and may be read
 gratuitously, at the undermentioned places of
 business in Dunedin, viz:—
 Mr R. T. Wheeler's Advertising Agency,
 Stafford-street;
 Mr A. R. Livingston's Stationery Warehouse,
 Princes-street;
 Messrs Reith and Nicolson's Bible Warehouse,
 Princes-street.
 Intending subscribers can either order the paper
 direct from the ARGUS office, or leave their
 names at any of the above-named places.
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
 Seven Shillings per quarter, including Postage.

Bendigo Gully, Lowburn, &c.

BENDIGO GULLY REEFS.

OLD BENDIGO HOTEL
 AND
STORES.
SMITH & O'DONNELL.

* Miners and Travellers can have first-class
 accommodation, and may obtain every informa-
 tion respecting the locality.
 Good Stabling; Horse-feed always on hand.

JAMES BEARE,
 GENERAL STOREKEEPER,
 BENDIGO GULLY.
 (In the immediate neighbourhood of the various
 quartz reefs.)

A large stock of Groceries and Household Re-
 quisites of all descriptions on hand.

CROMWELL PRICES.

WELCOME HOME HOTEL
 AND STORE,
 LOWBURN.
 About three miles from Cromwell, on the road
 to the Bendigo Reefs.
JOHN PERRIAM PROPRIETOR.

Every accommodation for Travellers.

Bannockburn Advertisements.

PUBLIC NOTICE.
 From the newly opened "GLADSTONE
 COAL WORKS," Bannockburn Ferry, the resi-
 dents of Cromwell and district, can be supplied
 with COAL the most resinous, ignitable, dur-
 able, and heat-producing of any as yet dis-
 covered in the province. It burns eagerly without
 the aid of wood, and prices are guaranteed
 reasonable. Orders gratefully received, and
 promptly executed, by the proprietor,
J. NICHOLAS.

STUART'S FERRY,
 KAWARAU RIVER.

Main crossing-place between Cromwell and
 the Nevis for Waggon, Drays, Horses, and
 Foot passengers.

Children attending School, Free.

THE FERRY HOTEL
 Has first-class accommodation for Travellers.

BANNOCKBURN HOTEL AND STORE,
Doctor's Flat, Bannockburn,
 (On the main road to the Nevis).
JOHN RICHARDS, PROPRIETOR.
Groceries and Household Requisites
 Of all descriptions kept in stock.
 The Goods, being obtained direct from Dunedin, are retailed at CROMWELL PRICES.

SHEPHERD'S CREEK
HOTEL AND STORE,
 BANNOCKBURN.

On the main road to the Nevis, 4½ miles from
 Cromwell.

J. Halliday, Proprietor.

An experienced Baker kept on the premises.

Wines, Spirits, and malt liquors of the best
 quality.

Ginger Beer and Cordial Manufacture.

District Post Office.

ANDREW HAMILTON,
ARTIST.
 Drawings of Houses, Vessels, Animals, &c.
 executed in black lead pencil or water colors.

TERMS:
 PENCIL DRAWINGS, from £1 ls.
 WATER COLOR do " £3 5s.

N.B.—The higher charges are not made ac-
 cording to size, but according to the amount of
 labor required to produce the picture.

Nevis Advertisements.

EDWARD THOMPSON,
NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS HOTEL
AND STORE,
NEVIS.
 A large and well-selected stock of GROCERIES
 of all descriptions constantly on hand.
 Goods delivered throughout the surrounding
 district on the shortest notice.
 * A commodious BILLIARD ROOM is now in
 course of erection, and will shortly be furnished
 with one of Alcock & Co.'s full-sized BILLIARD
 Tables.
 The best accommodation for Travellers.

Good Stabling.

BRITISH STORES,
Nevis.

NEVIS CROSSING HOTEL
 AND STORE,
 (About five miles from the Nevis Township).

The undersigned, in returning thanks for the
 liberal patronage bestowed on him since com-
 mencing business, begs to intimate that he con-
 tinues to keep a large and well-selected stock of
 SPIRITS, WINES, and GROCERIES of the very
 best description.
 Goods regularly delivered throughout the sur-
 rounding district.
CHARLES KORLL.

Queenstown Advertisements.

QUEENSTOWN SHOEING FORGE.
J. BRIDGE,
 General Blacksmith and Farrier,
 REES STREET, QUEENSTOWN.
 First-rate Stabling: good Oaten Hay.
 HORSES FOR HIRE.

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL,
 QUEENSTOWN.
A. EICHARDT PROPRIETOR.
 Private Rooms for Families.
 SAMPLE ROOMS FOR COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

A large and commodious STABLE, capable
 of accommodating twenty horses, has recently
 been completed, and has been pronounced by all
 who have visited the district as second to none
 in Dunedin. An experienced groom in attendance.
 Booking Office for Cobb & Co.'s line of Coaches.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL,
 (Corner of Beach and Rees streets),
 QUEENSTOWN.
W. McLARN PROPRIETOR.

The above Hotel continues to keep up its repu-
 tation as one of the most comfortable in the
 Wakatip district. The best accommodation for
 visitors and boarders.

FIRST-CLASS STABLING.
 The only paddock accommodation in the district
 The Pioneer of Sixpenny Drinks.

WAKATIP SAW MILLS
J. W. ROBERTSON & CO.,
TIMBER MERCHANTS,
 QUEENSTOWN.

Every description of SAWN TIMBER con-
 stantly on hand, at FRANKTON and QUEEN-
 STOWN.

ROBERT BOYNE,
GENERAL STOREKEEPER
 AND NEWS AGENT,
 Queenstown, Lake Wakatip.

A large stock of Groceries and other goods
 always on hand. Importer of English and Colo-
 nial Newspapers. Orders punctually attended
 to, and newspapers forwarded to any part of the
 district.

Agent for the CROMWELL ARGUS.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

VULCAN HOTEL, ST. BATHANS.
SAMUEL HANCOCK, Proprietor.
 First-class Accommodation for Travellers.
 Always on hand—Wines, Spirits, and Ales of
 the best quality.
 BILLIARD TABLE—GOOD STABLING.
 BLACKSMITH'S SHOP adjoining. Horses
 shod on the shortest notice. 5-17

To the Inhabitants of the Cromwell District

R. BARLOW,
PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER,
 AND
 MANUFACTURING JEWELLER,
 CLYDE.
 Has now on hand a choice and varied assort-
 ment of Gold and Silver WATCHES; English,
 French, and American CLOCKS; also, a very
 choice selection of English & Colonial JEWEL-
 LERY, consisting of
 Gold Scarf Pins | Brooches
 Lockets | Ear-rings
 Chains | Guards
 Wedding, Signet, Gem, and Keeper Rings, Seals,
 Keys, and Chains in endless variety, of the new-
 est designs.
 ALSO,
 Lately arrived, a very suitable and elegant
 assortment of FANCY GOODS, too numerous
 to particularize, very suitable for CHRISTMAS
 PRESENTS and NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

Watches and Clocks carefully cleaned & repaired.

ALBION HOTEL AND STORE
 LUGGATE,
 (28 miles from Cromwell, on the main road to
 Lake Wanaka).

H. MAIDMAN Proprietor.

This well-known Hotel possesses every accom-
 modation for the comfort and convenience of
 travellers.
 Groceries, Clothing, Drapery, Ironmongery,
 Mining Tools, &c., &c., constantly on hand, at
 Cromwell prices.

GOOD STABLING.
 N.B.—District Post Office.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

—O—
WANAKA HOTEL, PEMBROKE.

The above hotel, which is delightfully
 situated on the margin of the Wanaka Lake,
 offers to the tourist and pleasure-seeker
 advantages rarely to be met with.

The scenery in the neighbourhood is ex-
 ceedingly picturesque; and on an island in
 the Lake there is excellent rabbit-shooting.

A large PLEASURE-BOAT is kept for
 the accommodation of visitors, and every
 care is taken to provide means for their
 enjoyment while staying at the WANAKA
 HOTEL, which is universally admitted to be
 one of the most comfortable and best con-
 ducted houses in the Province.

The Proprietors of the WANAKA HOTEL
 can confidently state that a more pleasant
 method of passing a few days free from the
 turmoil and care of business, than by a
 sojourn in the neighbourhood of the pic-
 turesque and romantic Wanaka Lake, can
 scarcely be imagined.

THE STORE,
 In connection with the hotel, is well supplied
 with Groceries, Household Utensils, Ironmon-
 gery, Mining Tools, &c.
HEDDITCH & RUSSELL,
 Proprietors.

R. PRITCHARD,
 Wholesale and Retail Storekeeper,
 WINE, SPIRIT, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
 ARROWTOWN.

The largest and best-assorted stock of Wines,
 Spirits, Groceries, and Provisions in the district.
 A well-assorted stock of Boots and Shoes,
 Drapery, &c.

Agent for T. ROBINSON & Co., Agricultural
 Implement Manufacturers, Dunedin & Melbourne.

NOTICE.
 WE, the undersigned, beg to inform the in-
 habitants of the Cromwell, Alexandra
 and Clyde districts that we have appointed
I. HALLENSTEIN & CO.,
 CROMWELL,
 as our only Agents for the sale of our Silk-
 dressed FLOUR, BRAN, and POLLARD.
 We guarantee all Flour branded with our
 name and obtained through the above agents.
ROBERTSON & HALLENSTEIN,
 Brunswick Flour Mills,
 Lake Wakatip.

New Advertisements.

WILL BE CLASSIFIED IN OUR NEXT.

CONCERT.

A GRAND VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL
CONCERT.

For the purpose of forming the nucleus of a fund for the erection of an ATHENÆUM HALL in Cromwell, will be given in the large hall of KIDD'S HOTEL, on WEDNESDAY evening, 29th instant. Programme and further particulars will be published next week.

Smithfield Butchery Company.



OWEN PIERCE (late of St. Bathans) having purchased from Mr W. J. BARRY the Butchery Business lately carried on by him in Cromwell, begs to intimate that he is in a position to supply the best description of meat at moderate prices.

O. P. hopes by strict attention to business, and keeping meat of the very best quality, to obtain a share of public support.

WAKEFIELD FERRY HOTEL,
ROCKY POINT,
On the main road to Bendigo.

The best quality of Wines, Spirits, and Beers kept in stock.

Good accommodation for travellers.

* District Post Office. *

THE WAKEFIELD FERRY

Is the best and safest crossing-place on the Clutha River, and is on the direct road to the Bendigo Reefs.

The Punt and Boats are worked by careful and experienced boatmen, and the heaviest waggons can be crossed at any time with perfect safety.

MERCER'S

TEMPERANCE RESTAURANT,

LOGANTOWN.

BENDIGO REEFS.

The only establishment on Bendigo where Travellers can depend on getting MEALS AT ALL HOURS, in quietness and comfort.

The house is conducted strictly on TEMPERANCE PRINCIPLES.

The Restaurant is under the immediate management of MRS MERCER, and visitors may rest assured that every attention will be paid to their wants.

In order to keep pace with the increasing requirements of the township, the proprietor is about to make extensive improvements on the premises, and will shortly be in a position to offer excellent SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION to Boarders and Travellers.

Charges very moderate.

FRANCIS MERCER,
Proprietor.

LIME! LIME!! LIME!!!

From the DEEP CREEK KILNS.

I. HALLENSTEIN & Co.,

Agents for the Cromwell District.



HIGH-CLASS PHOTOGRAPHY.

ALFRED H. BURTON,

(Of BURTON BROS., Princes-street,
Dunedin).

CROMWELL.

On or about SATURDAY, 18th inst.

CORPORATION OF CROMWELL.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that as no Nomination of Candidates in the room of Councillor FRAER, resigned, took place on the day appointed (for want of assent in writing), it shall be lawful for the citizens to elect any qualified person who shall be nominated thereto without his consent, and the election shall in all other respects be as provided in the Otago Municipal Corporations Ordinance, 1865.

The Nomination will take place at the Council Chamber at noon on FRIDAY, the 24th inst., and the poll (if any) will be held in the Council Chamber at noon on TUESDAY, the 29th inst.

Nominations, duly filled up, must be lodged with the Town Clerk not later than noon on the 24th instant.

Forms of nomination can be had on application to the Town Clerk.

W. H. WHETTER,
Council Chamber,
December 14, 1869. Mayor.

New Advertisements.

WILL BE CLASSIFIED IN OUR NEXT.

IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED SALE

YOUNG HORSE STOCK,
CONSISTING OF
Hacks, Dray & Spring-cart Horses.

MR GEORGE FACHE has been instructed by Mr Wm. SOULES, of Arrowtown, to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at 2 o'clock on MONDAY, December 27, at Marsh's Sale Yards, CROMWELL,

TWENTY USEFUL YOUNG HORSES, bred by the Owner at his Farm near the Arrow. They are the stock of first class sires and mares, and average from two to four years old. They have all been handled, some having been broken in to harness and saddle.

NO RESERVE—ALL WILL BE SOLD.

GEORGE FACHE,
Auctioneer.
Clyde, 14th Dec. 1869.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

WILLIAM BARNES,
BLACKSMITH AND FARRIER,
(Late of Adlestree, Surrey).

Begs to announce to the inhabitants of CROMWELL and the surrounding Districts that he is about to start in the above business near the Bridge Hotel; and trusts, by strict attention to business, coupled with moderate charges, to secure a share of the work of the district.

CROMWELL RACE ART-UNION

For the Distribution of
Twenty Articles in Gold, &c.,
(For List of Prizes, see Tickets).
By CHAS. BEEBY, WATCHMAKER & JEWELLER,
Cromwell (late of Queenstown).

ONE HUNDRED SUBSCRIBERS.
At Ten Shillings Each.

To be drawn at the Council Hall, Cromwell, on
FRIDAY, 31st DECEMBER 1869,
At Eight o'clock p.m.

The Prizes are on view at C. BEEBY'S, next Smith's Kaurau Hotel.

Tickets, with List of Prizes printed on the back, may be obtained at the CROMWELL ARGUS Office; at the Kaurau Hotel; or of C. BEEBY.

The Winning Numbers will be advertised in the CROMWELL ARGUS.

COMMERCIAL.

ARGUS OFFICE,
Tuesday afternoon.

We have very little to report this week. The business done has been about the average amount, an equal demand existing for general goods. Loading from Dunedin is not plentiful, but there has been a number of teams in from Wakatipu, all loaded with Robertson and Hallenstein's flour and bran, the agents evidently laying in a stock before the wool season commences, when all waggons will no doubt be engaged with back loading to Dunedin.

The demand from Bendigo Gully and other districts has slightly increased, the residents in these districts preparing for Christmas.

Quotations are as follow:—

Flour (Robertson & Hallenstein's).—£17 to £19	
Pollard do. do.	£13 per ton.
Bran do. do.	9 " "
Oats.—7s per bushel.	
Wheat.—7s per bushel.	
Chaff.—£7 per ton.	
Hay.—£9 " "	
Straw.—£7 " "	
Potatoes.—£8 " "	
Bread.—1s per 4lb loaf.	
Butter.—2s per lb.	
Cheese.—1s 6d "	
Bacon.—1s 6d "	
Ham.—1s 8d "	
Eggs.—2s per dozen.	
Kerosene.—4s 9d per gallon.	
Candles.—1s 3d per lb.	
Cartage from Dunedin.—£7 10s per ton.	

THE
Cromwell Argus.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1869.

THIS speech of his Honor the Superintendent at the meeting of the Council on the 8th inst., gives prominence to two subjects that deeply affect the interests of this part of the Goldfields, as well as those of the other portions collectively. We allude to those parts of his Honor's speech which deal with the land question and a water supply for the Goldfields. It is the first time that so much attention has been attracted from a provincial point of view to the latter question; there has always been a kind of half-casualness about the way the subject was taken up before. Now the subject is boldly grappled with, and

the necessity of doing something practical acknowledged. We are, perhaps, indebted for this portion of his Honor's address to the existence of two facts—one, that it was becoming fashionable in certain circles in Dunedin to sneer at the Goldfields, and depreciate their value. This feeling, though confined to a class, had supporters powerful in influence, and under its ban the Goldfields have not received that amount of consideration which they deserve. His Honor, therefore, is on these grounds to be thanked for his outspoken expressions; and he does not place one whit too high a value upon our auriferous resources and the position they should occupy in provincial estimation. We may augur for the future a little more justice and consideration. The other fact, which is the probable cause of attention being given, is that the General Assembly has vigorously taken up the matter of a water supply for the Goldfields. As to how that supply should be given—whether by pledging the Goldfields revenue, by loan guaranteed by the General Government, by appropriation from the revenue, or by other plans mooted—we do not to-day enter into. It will be advisable, however, to let his Honor's speech on this head be fully understood, and we therefore give it currency in another column.

As to the land question, we are glad to see the action the Council is taking. Anything and everything that will tend to render access to the land more free, is to be approved of—whether the means chosen come up to or fall away from the standard of free selection and deferred payments. The debate on the subject promises to be an interesting one, and we hope to see the Cromwell memorial figuring in it, with its bold demand for the extension of the agricultural leasing system, as contained in the Goldfields Act. The country should have seized the opportunity to make itself heard—and it is not yet too late, as it will engage the attention of the Assembly next session. When we have the declaration of Mr John Cargill at Tokomairiro (one of the leaders of the land monopoly party, though erst a professed land reformer), that he is strongly opposed to these leasing regulations, we know that an attempt, as hinted in our last issue, will be made to expunge them from the statute-book. It is therefore advisable that steps should be taken to impress upon the authorities the desirability of extending these leasing regulations by the purchase of entire runs, and then treating them the same way as at the Wakatipu, namely, throwing them open to settlement under the agricultural and the depasturing regulations. The squatter would not then have to complain that the best of his run was taken from him: as he would be paid for all, he would be equitably treated. He would be only making way for a larger and more increased settlement than his own has been, and which his party have ever declared their desire to promote. We believe that this would, so far as the Goldfields are concerned, be the best mode of solving the difficulty, and, while promoting *bona fide* settlement, of acting fairly to all interests. The debate will be one worth studying, and we hope to see that our governors will display a little less of that petty cliquesism which is the ruin of Otago's interests.

We desire to direct the special attention of every individual interested in the development of the Bendigo Reefs, to the document a copy of which appears in another column of our present issue, and which is to be presented to Mr Warden Pyke to-day by the deputation appointed for that purpose on Monday evening last. It relates to the granting of a water-right to the holders of the Bendigo Reef, to the detriment of almost all the other claimholders at the Reefs, there being no other water-right available for the majority of the claims except by the construction of a race many miles in length, and which would involve a great amount of labour and expense, as well as loss of valuable time. The petition, or rather protest, bears a large number of signatures, which represent nearly one hundred shareholders in quartz claims on the field. The decision of this important question affects the interests not only of claimholders at present on the ground, but also of a considerable number resident in Dunedin and elsewhere who contemplate investing capital in the development of our undoubtedly rich and extensive quartz reefs. We earnestly trust that the Warden will consider the interests of the great body of the miners in dealing with the question, and that he will not consent to allow the only water available for working the claims to be monopolised by any one company—even though the shareholders of that company have been, as in this instance they certainly were, the original prospectors on the field.

The amount of gold taken down by the last Escort from Cromwell was 820ozs.; and from Queenstown (monthly return), 1508ozs.

The English mail closes at the Post-office, Cromwell, on Saturday next, at 3 p.m.

There was no candidate proposed on Thursday last for the vacancy in the representation of Bridge Ward caused by the resignation of Cr. Fraer. Citizens who are eligible for election do not seem to be alive to the fact that the business of the municipality is being seriously retarded in consequence of the want of another councillor. The Mayor has now the power to declare any person elected who is proposed and seconded by ratapayers; and in the event of such person declining to accept office, a fine of £25 can be inflicted.

It will be perceived by advertisement in another column that Messrs I. Hallenstein and Co. have been appointed agents in Cromwell for the sale of lime from the Deep Creek kilns. We are informed that this lime is exceedingly tenacious, and is of unusually excellent quality.

A portion of the road leading from the terrace above the Bannockburn Ferry to the river has been partially blocked up in consequence of a quantity of earth having fallen from the bank across it. This has rendered the road very awkward for vehicles, and it is desirable that the obstruction should be cleared away at once. We understand the road is a Government one, and no doubt our road inspector will see to it.

We have been shown a specimen of stone taken from the reef discovered by James Wilson and party, situated near the Rise and Shine Co.'s sluicing claim, about five miles from Logantown. This party had been out prospecting for some time, and while cutting a trench up a spur, struck the reef at a depth of about six feet. Gold is plainly discernible in the stone, and the reef is widening out as the sinking is continued. Application has been made for protection for a prospecting claim—hearing to take place before the Warden on the 22nd inst.

Now that the post-office and telegraph departments are entirely in the hands of the General Government we hope that some little attention will be paid to the requirements of this district. The Court-house is truly abominable, but the Post-office is a kennel not fit for a dog to exist in. It is a mystery to us how Mr Reekie manages to transact in it the important public business he has to perform. Again, what an absurd thing it is that not a single stamped piece of paper can be purchased in Cromwell, and that Clyde has to be visited before it can be procured. The district deserves the appointment of a distributor of stamps, and something more than a hole disguised by the name of a Post-office.

In the Supreme Court (in Banco), on Wednesday, 8th December, before His Honor Mr Justice Ward, Mr Howarth moved for a rule nisi calling upon the Mayor of Cromwell (Mr W. H. Whetter) to show cause why a writ of *quo warranto* should not issue, calling upon him to show cause under what authority he held office. An affidavit of some length was read in support of the application. His Honor granted a rule, and it was made returnable ten days after service.

A concert is announced to take place in the large hall of Kidd's hotel, on the evening of the 29th inst., proceeds to be given to a fund for the erection of an athenæum in Cromwell. The programme will be published next week.

The Dunstan and Cromwell portions of the English mail were brought to Clyde, via Tuapeka, shortly after midnight on Wednesday last. The late arrival of the mailman was owing to the fact that no provision exists for carrying heavy mails by the Knobby Range route. The mailman (Mr Albert Byford) had to hire an additional horse, and bring the mail on by the Coal Creek road with the Teviot coach. Having been delayed at Roxburgh while the extra horse was being ridden in, it was dark when he reached Speargrass Flat, about twelve miles from Alexandra; and being unacquainted with the road, the driver had to "feel his way" slowly and cautiously until he reached Alexandra, where he crossed the ferry about 11 o'clock, arriving at Clyde, as before stated, at about one o'clock in the morning. We are informed by the agent at Clyde (Mr Foote), that this is the first occasion on which the present mailman has been behind time.

The monthly meeting of the Cromwell Library Committee was held on the 7th instant. An addition to Rule 3 was made, whereby members residing over seven miles from Cromwell are now allowed double time for the reading of books taken out of the library. A discussion ensued as to the advisability of allowing representatives of the press to attend meetings of the Committee, a motion authorising the secretary to give the local journals notice of meetings being (we need hardly say) carried. A vote of thanks to the chair concluded the proceedings.

In another column, Mr A. H. Burton, of the firm of Burton Bros., photographers, Dunedin, announces that he anticipates being in Cromwell on Saturday next. These well-known artists have become celebrated for the excellence of their landscape and other portraits, and we have no doubt that Mr Burton's trip to this district will be a highly successful one.

It is reported that goldfields one hundred and twenty miles long, exceeding the Californian mines in richness, have been discovered near Colima, North-western Mexico, and that diggers are gathering there in large numbers.

The Charleston Prospecting Association have despatched four men to prospect for gold in the back country. The men are to receive 30s per week while out prospecting.

PUBLIC MEETING OF MINERS
AT BENDIGO.

On Monday evening last a meeting of miners and others interested in the development of the reefs was held at Messrs Hamilton and Barclay's Billiard saloon, Logantown. About a hundred persons were present, and Mr Archibald was called to the chair.

The Chairman said that the object in calling the meeting was to protest against the granting by the Warden of a water-right applied for by Thomas Logan and party, of the Bendigo Reef. The grounds of objection were that the said water-right was applied for by Knudson and party a month ago, and was refused; that several other applications had previously been made for the same privilege, one of which was granted, and the permission afterwards cancelled, by the Warden; that the miners considered that due and sufficient notice of Logan and party's application had not been given by the Warden; and that it would not only be detrimental to the interests of the mining population and of all shareholders in quartz-claims, but positively unjust and unfair to all concerned, and would prove disastrous to the whole district. The Chairman spoke at some length on the subject, and said that the notices required by the Goldfields Act had not been properly posted, but had been, as it were, hidden under a bushel. [We regret that our reporter was unable to reach the reefs in time to report the proceedings in full; but we received no intimation of the meeting from any source until the forenoon of the day on which it was held, and pressure of other business prevented his leaving Cromwell sufficiently early to be present on the occasion.]

The first resolution was proposed by Mr Michael Hurley, seconded by Mr Pearce, and unanimously agreed to:—

"That a committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, be formed to take the matter in hand:—Messrs Stewart Richmond, Aldridge, Hurley, Kelly, Muir, and Archibald."

Mr Charles Howard moved the second resolution, which was as follows:—

"That all the different claims be canvassed by two of the committee, for the purpose of raising subscriptions to pay all expenses incurred in the matter."

This was seconded by Mr Thos. Turner, and carried unanimously.

The following resolution was also put to the meeting, and carried unanimously:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is injurious to the interests of the public at large that Logan and party should get a grant of water out of the right hand branch of the Bendigo Gully, such water being capable of working a number of machines along and adjacent to its natural course."

The Committee appointed to carry out the wishes of the miners afterwards met and prepared a memorial for presentation to the Warden, and a deputation consisting of Messrs Michael Hurley and William Aldred, was appointed to wait on Mr Pyke with the document. The following is a copy of the memorial:—

Bendigo Reefs, 13th Dec., 1869.

To Vincent Pyke, Esq., R.M.,

Warden, Cromwell.

Sir.—We the undersigned hereby object to the issue of a water license being granted to Thos. Logan and company for the purpose of diverting water out of the right hand branch of Bendigo Gully to any place whatever out of its present course, for the following reasons:—

- 1st. Because the water in question is required, and has been applied for, for the purpose of working quartz crushing machinery in or near the present course of the stream, and if the water is diverted out of its present course, such machinery cannot be worked.
- 2nd. Because a number of quartz mining companies are depending solely on the water remaining in its present course for the purpose of working crushing machinery.
- 3rd. Because, if such water is diverted from its present course, a large amount of ground on both sides, and in the immediate vicinity of the said gully, will therefore become valueless to the present owners, consequent their upon not having water to work quartz crushing machinery.
- 4th. Because due and sufficient public notice has not been given of the intended diversion of the water in question; and that therefore the mining companies whose property will be greatly reduced in value by the removal of the water in question, had not an opportunity of objecting to such license being granted.

The greatest unanimity was manifested by the miners on the question they had met to discuss, and all present evinced the deepest interest in the subject, and appeared determined to do all in their power to prevent encroachment on their just rights.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

To the Editor of the CROMWELL ARGUS.

SIR—"Inquirer" in your last issue invites a solution of what he calls a problem, which may be thus stated:—What gain or loss would accrue to a water company which should first furnish a supply of water by means of two four-inch pipes and afterwards by one pipe of eight inches?

The answer is that the company would supply as much water through an eight-inch pipe as through three of four inches only. The company therefore would gain by one-third the other of course would lose to the same extent.

Let "Inquirer" trace a circle of eight in then two of four inches each inside it, and find a space on both sides of the two. These and the increased pressure on the pipe will be the solution.—I am, &c.,

Scaboo

CROMWELL R.M.'s COURT.

(Before VINCENT PYKE, Esq., R.M.)

Application for General and Wholesale and Bottle Licenses were then heard. Licenses were granted to the whole of the applicants whose names appeared in our issue of the 1st instant, with the exception of Mr W. Goodall, consideration of the last-named application being adjourned. At the adjourned hearing, the license was refused, on the ground of the close proximity of the house to the Cromwell Company's crushing machinery.

The Court refused to issue a warrant to arrest a man whose name was unknown, and who had burst in the door of Mr Halliday's hotel at the Bannockburn and assaulted the proprietor by striking him on the head with a porter bottle. The warrant was refused on the grounds that a summons should first issue. Mr Halliday's head was bound up, and showed how severe the alleged assault must have been.

WARDEN'S COURT, CROMWELL.

(Before VINCENT PYKE, Esq., Warden.)

Gibson v. Colclough and Lyons.—This case had been heard at the last sitting of the Court. The plaintiff prayed he might be entitled to one-sixth share in defendants' reef. The defendant Colclough pleaded (1st) that he had not entered into partnership with the plaintiff, and (2nd) that he had discovered the reef independent of any agreement. The other defendant, however, denied that the agreement entered into at the Cardrona extended beyond giving plaintiff a right to any machinery site discovered. Subsequently, the right of plaintiff to a one-fifth interest in the two sixth shares held by Lyons was admitted by the defendant Colclough, and from the evidence given, it appeared that plaintiff's right to that extent had been acknowledged by Lyons. Judgment was given for defendants, with costs of Court.

Mr Brough applied for a re-hearing on the grounds that fresh evidence had been discovered, and that plaintiff had been taken by surprise.—Granted, the application for assessors to be made on the 22nd inst., and case to be heard on the 5th January.

Boulton and Austin v. Same.—Mr Manders urged that these cases should be heard, as plaintiffs cases were strengthened by several witnesses he had to produce from the Cardrona and elsewhere. The Warden, after some argument, refused to hear the matter piece-meal, and set down the cases for hearing on the 5th January. The plaintiffs alleged, without counsel, that they had numerous witnesses from Cardrona and the reefs present.

The other business transacted consisted of an application by Bushell and party and Passmore and party for water at Smith's Gully. The application was opposed by a party of Chinese, for whom Mr Manders and Mr Balger appeared. The applicants desired to tap the source of supply to the gully named, and by being allowed to do so, not more than half a head would flow down the gully. The Court refused both applications, and warned applicants that if they interfered with the Chinese men's water they would be fined heavily.

The other business transacted was of an unimportant nature.

WARDEN'S COURT AT THE REEFS.

The Court held a protracted sitting, on Thursday, lasting until after eight in the evening.

Registration of claims were made for the Bendigo, Aurora, Colclough's, Richmond's, Alto, and another line of reef. As we purpose to publish a list of the claims on the various lines of reef, compiled from these registrations when completed, we do not give them in extenso in this report. A map by Mr George was produced, and was of great assistance in marking out and defining the claims, which were severally marked No. 1, 2, or 3, east or west, as the case may be, starting from the prospecting claim. On the Bendigo Reef there were twelve claims on the east and five on the west—making, with the prospecting claim, eighteen in all; on the Aurora, eight east and three west, and including prospecting claim, twelve in all; on Colclough's, six east and four west, or eleven in all. For Richmond's and the Alto reefs, several claims on both sides of the prospectors were registered; but the survey had not been made, and the registration was otherwise incomplete.

Mr George Murray's application for ten heads of water, to be brought from a distance of ten miles, was granted.—The Court expressing its satisfaction in being able to make the grant; and as the bringing in of this water to drive crushing machinery would be a public benefit, the levels would be taken by Mr Bate, the surveyor appointed by the Provincial Government to survey the water resources of the district, if the applicant would provide chainmen. The Warden further stated that the object of this was as to bring the water to the highest possible elevation, so that when it had served for mining purposes, it might be available for others. Mr Murray agreed to find chainmen, but remarked that this was a purely commercial speculation, which had to be carried out as economically as possible.

A survey of the unallotted four heads of water in Bendigo Gully was brought up by Mr Bate. By the cutting of a race, the water may be brought round several of the lines of reef, and thus it can be used at several points for driving crushing machinery. The plan made, however, elicited a strong objection from Kueulson and party, and others, but was ultimately sanctioned by Messrs Bate and George, as surveyors, declaring that it was the best mode of distributing the water that could be adopted. Upon this line, use of water was given to Eblen and party for the Alto reef, and to Garrett and party for another line.

Kane v. McLeod and others.—This was a case of encroachment, and had previously been before the Court on two occasions in the form of objections. Mr Manders for complainant; Mr Balger for defendants. The question involved was whether, under No. 1 claim west on Colclough's reef, was a claim; the complainant proving as between six and seven o'clock on the 1st of Monday, 1st November, and that he was found on Tuesday in Colclough's reef, which was marked out on the Saturday night. The defendant, however, swore he was not on the claim on Friday. It was elicited on cross-examination that the defendant miner's right until the 3rd November; that this case fell to the ground, and that he obtained possession of the ground.

BENDIGO QUARTZ REEFS.

Several new buildings have been commenced at Logantown within the past fortnight, among which may be mentioned Mr Perriam's store, Mr Horigan's hotel, and Messrs Hamilton and Barclay's billiard-saloon—the latter having been erected by Mr C. Colclough. A much-felt want has been supplied in the erection by Mr Francis Mercer of temporary premises for dining-rooms. The proprietor intends, we are informed, to build a permanent structure on the site of the present erection. The township now begins to assume a more settled and permanent aspect, and the holders of claims have in many instances started to work on their shafts with energy and vigour. A very great amount of dissatisfaction is expressed in consequence of the Warden having granted the application of the owners of the Bendigo Reef (Messrs Logan, Goodger, Garrett, and Eblen) for the exclusive right to the only water-race in the vicinity of the reefs.

In Colclough's claim, the party are still following the reef, and the prospects continue good.

In No. 1 west of Colclough's claim, work has been started, and the party have found a very rich leader, which they are now following.

Harp of Erin (No. 2 west of Colclough's).—On account of one of the prospectors having gone into business at Logantown, the sinking of the shaft has been let on contract. The price per foot is 27s 6d, the contractors being supplied with winding-gear. This party are on a very good leader.

Nos. 1 and 5 east of Colclough's.—The former is held by Butler and party, and the latter by McConnochie and party, of Clyde. Tenders have been called for sinking new shafts in both these claims, so that operations will probably be resumed at once.

In Woods and Co.'s claim (better known as Bears'), the shaft is down to a depth of 20 feet, and the company have accepted a tender to continue the sinking at 30s a foot. The contractors are following down the reef, and are meeting with good indications.

The erection of machinery at the Aurora Company's claim is proceeding rapidly; and should it continue at the same rate of progress, the battery will be ready to commence crushing operations about Christmas. A seventh share in this claim was sold last week for £1059. The share belonged to Mr Oswald Walker, and Messrs Benjamin B. Cooper and Thos. McMorran were the buyers. The present holders of the share have, in addition to the purchase-money, to defray a seventh of the cost of machinery, as well as the same proportion of working expenses since August last.

O'Donnell and party (No. 1 east of Aurora claim) have sunk a shaft to the depth of 75 feet; but on account of their reef dipping outwards from the hill, they have now commenced to drive a tunnel towards the shaft from the face of the hill.

In No. 2 west of the Aurora claim, the shaft is down 30 feet, with a mullocky leader to that depth. The party are now on a rich leader of quartz, fully twelve inches in width. We have seen in the hands of one of the shareholders a very excellent prospect from this claim.

The Morning Star Company (No. 1 west from the Bendigo Claim), have accepted a tender for sinking a shaft 50 feet in depth.

In the adjoining claim (No. 2 west), the reef has been struck in the new shaft, about 100 feet below that first put down.

Hazlett's party, in the claim adjoining the last-mentioned, are engaged in driving from the bottom of their shaft in order to find the reef.

Brough's party (next to Hazlett's), have pushed a tunnel about 150 feet in from the gully, and expect to come upon the reef very shortly.

The Bendigo Claim is in full working order, and it is reported that the crushings continue to yield handsome returns. The machine is working day and night. It is expected that the additional five head of stampers will shortly be placed in position at the wheel. A shed is being erected over the machinery at present in use.

The Wellington quartz has turned out auriferous after all. The following letter in reference to it has been received from Auckland:—"I have had, in accordance with my promise, the three samples of quartz from Makara tested by Mr Spencer, analytical chemist, Grahamstown. I was informed by parties conversant with such matters that to have the samples crushed at any battery would be no test at all, as sufficient care is not taken to remove all remains of previous crushings, and that there is always some gold remaining. I can vouch for the care and skill used in this case. Mr Spencer informs me that gold is found in each sample, but not in payable quantities. The following is the result of the analysis:—Upper drive, 14wt 4grs per ton; lower drive, 24wt 8grs per ton; lower shaft, 31wt 13grs per ton. The following is an of gold news is also from Wellington:—A. and the many parties burrowing for gold at Terawiti we learn to-day, on what we believe to be indisputable authority, that gold in quartz has been struck by the Berkshire claimholders, at a depth of seventy feet. Specimens have been brought up to town containing gold, and the proprietors of the claim are sanguine as to the auriferous character of the reef on which they have struck.

"PEEPING BOB" ON THE CROMWELL RACES.

(Communicated.)

Taking a drop too much the other night, and not being able to sleep in the morning, I took a stroll up Mohoro-street, and followed a lot of horses in the direction of the Gorge, when I suddenly stumbled across the Cromwell racecourse. Here I witnessed, to my great joy (considering that I have a very little knowledge of racing) the performances of the Cromwell team.

First stripped was Excelsior, who went his three miles in fine form, ridden by Taggart. He is in splendid condition, and ought to win. I intend to invest on him for the "big handicap." Next came Nelly Gray. She is rather late in the district, and I am afraid she will not be got into condition. I am not on with her. She went her mile and half, ridden by Smith, not to my satisfaction. Next in the field was Mr Smitham's celebrated horse Cromwell. I must say this is the most likely horse of the lot. He is in first-rate hands, and Dick is bringing him out something differently to what he ever was before. If he continues as he is doing at present, he may let some of the "knowing ones" in for it. I then got a look at Ratty, a very fine-bred horse—but can't stay. I am not on. Next came out Mr Garrett's Reeler: would make an excellent pack-horse—considering he has corns, and would not shake his load, he would put his feet down so gently. I understand there is also another celebrated horse called Chance; but as I did not see him, I am not able to speak of his capabilities. I am sure, however, that his spirited owner would not keep a bad horse—he must be keeping him back to astonish the natives. More next time.—Yours, &c.,

PEEPING BOB.

QUEENSTOWN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 10, 1893.

I am afraid you will not be able to consider my first epistle either "instructive or entertaining" to any very great extent, as there is rather a dearth of news here at present, and it is to be regretted that your correspondent has not a sufficiently vivid imagination to draw upon, so that he could make news for the occasion. However, I will, Micawber-like, wait patiently for "something to turn up," of which you shall regularly be informed.

News was received in town last night that a Chinaman, known by the cognomen of "The Doctor," had been drowned in the Buckleburn, head of the Lake; but no particulars as to how the accident happened have yet come to hand. As an inquiry into the circumstances will probably take place, I may be able to give more particulars in my next.

The sixth anniversary of Court Pride of the Lake, A.O.F., was celebrated on the evening of Tuesday last by a ball and supper in the Masonic Hotel, Queenstown. There was a very fair attendance, and the "light fantastic" was enjoyed till an early hour in the morning—everyone being highly pleased with the night's proceedings.

I was glad to notice by the last number of the *Argus* that there is a likelihood of a cricket club being established in Cromwell; and I trust it will succeed. I would advise the members to give our "knights of the willow" a challenge, as they badly want something to rouse their energies. They have all the necessary materials, and a good ground, and yet they are disgustingly apathetic. I must say, however, that when they do "go in," they are a tolerably strong team.

A little local gossip has been occasioned in town to-day, through a paragraph which appeared in the *Mail* yesterday, commenting in no very measured terms upon the conduct of our local postmaster and telegraphist, Mr Palek. The *Mail* accuses him of deliberately misrepresenting facts, in so far as he informed the proprietor of that journal that certain English news could not appear in the *Daily Times* of Monday last, thereby inducing him to have a very lengthy resumé of news telegraphed for the benefit of his readers, albeit the said telegraphic news did appear in *Daily Times*. If what is stated by the *Mail* is correct, there is no doubt such conduct is extremely reprehensible, and is certainly not calculated to inspire the public with that confidence which is so necessary in an officer holding so responsible a position.

The weather at present is delightful, and as a consequence all Nature is springing up in magnificent style.

The Thames correspondent of the *Timaru Herald* writing from Grahamstown under date the 25th November, says:—"Little or nothing in the way of speculation has been done on this field for the past fortnight, and the returns from the different batteries have (except in the cases of two or three well-known and dividend-paying companies) been below the average. The public have been a great deal too sanguine, and have estimated the value of their claims in most instances at a fictitious figure, thereby shutting out Victorian and New South Wales speculators, who were far too long-headed and experienced to take the same view of the subject, and who have not invested as yet to any great extent. As the summer advances, I expect to see a great improvement in the returns of gold from the field, as well as in the class of people who will have the management of mining affairs here.

ST. BATHANS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

December 9, 1893.

The office of correspondent to the Press is by no means an undesirable or unimportant employment, if the writer is actuated by sincere motives. That of chronicling events in his own locality worthy of public notice; publishing sound investments to attract the attention of capitalists; condemning abuses, and advocating projects initiated by residents that may prove generally beneficial, but requiring foreign support—more often Government aid—to be completed; taking up the cause of the needy, afflicted, and maligned; wreathing laurels for those who unselfishly persevere in promoting reform, even against all opposition of conflicting interests; and urging a balance of the scales of justice for universal assistance from the public chest, as against the false dice of undue influence for special aid to particular places. The regular correspondent (in a place where there is no newspaper) may indeed be a useful man among his own people, if he confines himself strictly to truth, keeps his reports free from "even" the appearance of exaggeration, and is contented to have the district known to the public as it is among the residents—"in its true colours." With this prelude to my maiden letter, HEARKEN TO THE CHRONICLES.

With a fair supply of water from the Manuhirika and its tributaries, the identities of St. Bathans, unmoved by gold fevers or rushes of any kind, have, for the past four years, perseveringly stripped all the auriferous terraces surrounding the basin of St. Bathans, and have been well and justly rewarded for their pains. Doubtless many families in Great Britain and her colonies have reaped the benefit of mining success here (and elsewhere), while immigration has been sustained in the same manner, without any other encouragement, by the reports of prosperous mining throughout the Colony. In referring to this place, let the escort returns for the past five years be taken as evidence of success; and may these proofs of the great and lasting benefits conferred upon the country by the so-called wandering diggers gainsay the opinion of "striving to better," "carpe diem," "ubi mel," and all believers in their doctrines, and remain green in the minds of patriotic legislators who are so short-sighted as to protect the interests of the first pioneers at a sacrifice of the welfare of a class of men who, without money, can make this country an exceedingly rich and prosperous one, or if there is no room made for them, em, and will, take the first few hundreds they collect to some more welcome place, leaving Otago to struggle on with high wages, dear labour, and scarcity of markets for want of population, which is the grand and simple secret of a country's prosperity.

The only public institutions St. Bathans can boast of are the school and a total abstinence society. The former is supported by Government aid and fees from the scholars, the average attendance being 22. The income (£150 a-year) is devoted to the schoolmaster's salary, and little enough it is in a place where provisions are so high. The latter institution, supported by monthly contributions from about 40 members, has proved highly beneficial to many a "hitherto foolish fellow"—turned him into a different man, and brought comfort to wives and children and homes, with some prospect of "nest-eggs" for the education of the little ones.

Dipsomania, so prevalent in Otago in 1863-4-5-6, is waning fast in this quarter, and I dare prophesy a permanent, prosperous settlement of about 200 people owing its establishment to the efforts of the first total abstinence society of 1860.

Two of our old residents are removing their business to Cromwell, and will prove acquisitions to your town, as energetic, pushing men of business. One of them has been residing at St. Bathans for four years, and has always been very active in promoting the public interests. We are sorry to lose both of our fellow-townsmen.

St. Bathans may be called strictly alhivial and potato diggings. The only other established source of living is the sale of goats' milk. The climate is genial, although the weather is capricious. The people are orderly, industrious, and domesticated, the single men and women only looking occasionally gloomy and morose.

ACCIDENTS AT NASEBY AND HAMILTON.

[From the Mount Ida Chronicle.]

We regret to state that Dietrich Römer, the unfortunate man who met with so lamentable an accident and sustained such severe injuries from an earthfall on the 30th ult., expired on Monday evening last. An inquest was held on Tuesday, before H. W. Robinson, Esq., Coroner, when a verdict of "accidental death" was recorded.

Again does it become our painful duty to record another serious accident from earthfall. It appears that the unfortunate sufferer in the present case is Owen Galvin, who, at the time of the accident (10.30 a.m. on Monday last), was undermining a fall on Green's claim, Enterprise Gully, when the ground suddenly gave way, completely burying the upper part of his body. Dr McCambridge was speedily on the spot, and pronounced the collar-bone to be broken and some internal injuries received. He was re-

moved to the Melbourne Hotel, where the collar-bone was set and other surgical aid rendered. Dr McCambridge now reports his patient as progressing favourably.—Surely these frequent accidents, combined with the well-known friable nature of the ground in the district, will have the effect of making people more careful how, by neglect or foolishness, they bring upon themselves a miserable fate.

Though for the last week or more our columns have unfortunately teemed with accounts of accidents and loss of life, it yet becomes our painful duty to add another to that already too long list. An accident has occurred on the dam of Messrs Bremner Bros., at Hamilton, by which a man named Somers has been drowned, and Mr John Fenwick, an old, faithful, and much-esteemed assistant of Messrs Bremner Bros., has narrowly escaped a watery grave. An inquest was held on the body of the unfortunate man, Joseph Somers, on Wednesday last, before H. W. Robinson, Esq., Coroner. The principal witness examined was Mr John Fenwick (a brother of Messrs G. and W. Fenwick, of the CROMWELL ARGUS), who, being sworn, stated:—"I am a clerk in the employ of Messrs Bremner Bros., and reside at Hamilton. I knew the deceased Joseph Somers. Yesterday morning, about four o'clock (as nearly as I can remember) I saw him in Bremner's store. He then went away, saying he should go home, as he had to be at work at six o'clock. He was a miner. After he was gone I went to bed. Not being able to sleep I rose and dressed myself, with the intention of taking a short walk. I went up the hill towards the dam. I heard somebody cough. I noticed that the boat was on the further side, and somebody was in it. He pulled the boat to a small point, where he took a dog on board. The man seemed to see me, and pulled towards me. I recognised him then as Joseph Somers. When he got to shore, I said:—'Hello, Joseph, what are you doing here? I thought you were going home.' He replied:—'Oh no; I had to go to work at six o'clock, and was frightened I might sleep in.' He then asked me to get in and have a sail. He sat in the stern of the boat. I got in, and sat on the bar in the middle of the boat. We then put the dog out, and he swam ashore. Somers then pulled the boat towards the back part of the dam, and from there started to go right across the dam. He alone was paddling. When about one third of the way across he stood up and stepped or staggered to the side of the boat where I was sitting. The boat then capsized. I was thrown underneath the boat. When I got from beneath it I saw Somers striking out for the shore. I made several attempts to right the boat, but she always turned over again. Once I had actually righted her and had nearly got in, but she turned over again while I was struggling in the water. I heard a shout, and turning round, I saw Somers sink. I then got on to the boat, which floated bottom upwards, and paddled myself to shore with my hands. I think I must have been an hour on the boat. When I got ashore I went to give information to the police. The deceased was clad in coat, trousers, and lace-up boots. He was the worse for liquor, but he managed the boat very well as long as he remained seated. I cannot call to mind that the deceased uttered any words after the boat capsized. The boat is a square flat-bottomed punt, about ten feet long and thirty inches wide. It was leaking a little, but there was very little water in the boat.

Other witnesses were examined, but there was nothing in the evidence which threw any additional light upon the accident.

Verdict.—Accidental death from drowning.

MINING NEWS.

THE SOUTHLAND GOLDFIELDS.

Mr Warren Rogers, writing from Orepuki under date 22nd November, reports as follows:—

At Orepuki there are about 80 miners, all engaged in ground sluicing. Most of these have been on the ground from two to four years, and it is not likely there will be any decrease in their numbers. Their earnings vary from 15s to £1 per day—and in a few instances, more—from the time of completion of head and tail races. The gold is very fine, and only payable by ground sluicing. There is a large area of payable ground known, and the only limit to an increase in number is that all the water really available is now taken up. . . . A company to bring in water, would be at once formed, and the capital found between Orepuki and Riverton, if the necessary levels and distances were known, so as to give data on which to calculate the cost. At Lake George, Colac's Bay, there are about ten miners ground sluicing. At Moea Creek there are ten miners, part ground sluicing, and part cutting the terraces, prospecting for a reef. The ground has paid well, the gold being coarse. At Longwood there are about seventy miners. Of these, there are fifteen on the Company's ground, a few ground sluicing, and others cutting through the terraces. Two other parties are at similar work on each side of Specimen Gully. In this gully, numerous specimens of quartz, with visible gold, are still being found; and from the angular form of the stone, showing that it cannot have travelled far, great hopes are entertained of the parent reef being soon struck. At the prospecting claim, a mile distant from Specimen Gully, the reef has now been struck for the length of a quarter of a mile, at various depths up to 52ft. Fine gold is found in the debris of the quartz on a lacing by panning off, but none is visible in the stone. No means of properly crushing the stone for trial at present exist here; but a Berlan's Crusher is shortly expected, and in the meantime the parties propose joining to sink a shaft a hundred feet. On the Company's ground, Messrs Surman and Blacklock have been obtaining coarse, nuggety gold, some pieces being over an ounce in weight, and marked with particles of quartz. At Stewart's Island, there are about ten miners. The Bluff Company have applied for further protection for their quartz claim at Red Head, to make arrangements for sinking a deep shaft to test the stone at a lower level.

Australia.

A Queensland paper states that at the Wallaroo Reef, in that colony, may be witnessed the most primitive method of quartz-crushing to be seen perhaps on any gold-field in the Australian colonies. A rude fire-place for burning the quartz, three wooden stamper for crushing it, worked by a lever in a wooden trough—such is the machinery constructed by the industrious proprietor of the reef, James Allen, of Warwick.

The Hobart Town Museum was visited by upwards of 2000 individuals on Friday, the 22nd ult., the attraction being the two salmon smolt which had been caught in the Derwent the previous night.

The Government of Queensland has made a bold step in the matter of education. The Governor, in his speech on the prorogation of Parliament, made the following announcement:—"The liberal provision made by parliament enables me to state with thankfulness that on and after the 1st January, 1870, public education in the primary schools of Queensland shall be free to every child in the colony." The amount of the education grant for 1870 is £21,000, and the decision at which the Government has arrived is purely spontaneous, and is not the result of any Parliamentary pressure.

The confectioners of Sydney have discovered that a protective tariff is a very bad thing, and upwards of a hundred manufacturing confectioners in Sydney and their employees have caused a circular letter to be addressed to the members of the Legislative Assembly. They allege that they suffer great injustice from the existing tariff, and that they are apprehensive of the total destruction of their trade by the proposed abolition of *ad valorem* duties.

There is now before the New South Wales Parliament a bill "to authorise and regulate assisted immigration." It proposes, says a Sydney paper, to revive the scheme of assisted immigration, with this important modification, viz., that the person "resident in the colony," who nominates and pays for the proposed immigrant (at the rate of £3 for an adult, and £4 for a child), shall receive from the Government "Land Receipts" for the full amount of any moneys he may pay for such a purpose. The passages for the immigrants will be provided by the Government, and the land receipts given to the nominator will be transferable and available, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent., for the purchase of land by free selection for three years thereafter; after which period, for 12 years, they will be available for the purchase of any Government lands whatever. Persons in the United Kingdom, not nominated by residents in the colony, may secure passages at the rate of £15 for adults and £7 10s for children, together with land receipts for the full amount, available under the same rules as before mentioned for assisted immigrants. The persons eligible under this Bill are mechanics of every description, agriculturists, miners, domestic servants, and all persons of the labouring classes, being of sound bodily and mental health, of capability and fitness for industrial employment, and of good moral character.

The Melbourne correspondent of the *Daily Times* writes:—"The Flying Squadron has at last arrived. The Eady-mion, which only got in to-day, had been separated from the rest of the Squadron by the severity of the gale. We are quite gay, however, just now—officers in uniform, Jack in blue shirt, with unlimited lay-down collar, are common as blackberries, and Melbourne might be Portsmouth. The delay in the arrival of the missing ship will, I believe, necessitate a slight deviation from the original programme, or possibly they will pull up the difference before they reach your shores.—The admirers of muscular Christianity will be pleased to find that a number of Wesleyan ministers can be met with in any one place of sufficiently liberal mind to see no impropriety in a harmless game of cricket. A short time since, a convocation of the clergy of that denomination was held at Castlemaine, and eleven gentlemen of the cloth met a team of typos in the field, and all unaccustomed as they must naturally be to the use of the willow, they succeeded in scoring 42 against 51 for their more practised antagonists, the printers."

The boarders in a fashionable house were assembled in the public parlour one evening, when a rather antiquated maiden lady, who never seemed to have any employment but admiring her jewellery and dresses, lisped out the remark that she loved a rainy day, and always availed herself of it to arrange her drawers. "So do I," growled out an old sea captain. "I overhauled my drawers and shirts, too, sometimes, and sew on a button or a string where it is needed." Mademoiselle did not faint; but there was an angry rustle of silks, as she swept out of the room, leaving all to exchange a suppressed titter for a good, hearty laugh.

Amiable Mother: "Here Tommy, is some nice castor oil, with orange in it." Doctor: "Now, remember, don't give it all to Tommy; leave some for me." Tommy (who has been there before): "Doctor's a nice man, isn't he? give it all to the doctor."

News by the October Mail.

One of the largest Sunday schools in San Francisco is composed of Chinese children.

Blondin re-appeared at the Crystal Palace on September 27, in a tight-rope performance. It was not, however, of such a dangerous character as that which was witnessed some years ago.

On September 8, at the Birkenhead Police Court, a gentleman's son was convicted of gross cruelty. Sitting on the will of his father's garden and cracking his whip, he deliberately pelted a pet greyhound to death. His father said the boy was not there at the time, but the magistrate said he believed he was, and imposed a penalty of 3l. for the cruelty, 2l. the value of the dog, and costs, in all 5l. 9s.

Lady Mary Hamilton, sister of the Duke of Hamilton, was married at the Chateau de Marchais on Sept. 21 to the Duke of Valentinois, son of the Prince of Monaco. The daughter of a Scotch Duke has thus become a sovereign princess. The Emperor and Empress of the French presented the bride with a brilliant bracelet and a thistle brooch as a souvenir of their regard on the auspicious occasion.

The Duke of Edinburgh is now talked of as a "likely young man" for the throne of Spain. *Gil Blas*, the *Punch* of Madrid, represents Senor Olozaga lauding our sailor Prince forward, and pointing out to him the empty throne, over which, after the story of Damocles, there is a sword suspended by a hair. The Prince is in the attitude of eyeing it through a glass, and remarking, "Yes, it is very pretty, but for my part I don't like upholstery with such hangings!"

The inauguration of the Scottish national monument to Sir William Wallace took place on Sept. 11. The monument is situated on the Abbey Craig, a commanding position near Stirling, and overlooking the field of Bannockburn.

A terrible thunderstorm, the most violent known for years, burst over Mullingar and the adjacent country on September 30. It fortunately lasted only an hour, but during even that short time it did a great deal of damage, killing numbers of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c. A poor woman, wife of a labourer residing about three miles off, was struck by the electric fluid, which passed down the chimney of the cabin, killing her on the spot. Her body was reduced almost to cinders, and the cabin, with all its contents, destroyed.

Several cases of hydrophobia have recently occurred in Yorkshire. In one case the victim was a boy named James Henry Boothroyd, five years of age. He was bitten by a rabid dog in July last, and his wounds were attended to by a surgeon, and it was hoped he would recover; but symptoms of hydrophobia made their appearance, and the sufferer died on September 20.

On September 29 a young man named Alfred Norwood was attacked by a leopard in Messrs Bostock and Wombwell's wild beast show, while putting some of the animals through their performances, at Sunderland. He was dragged to the ground by the back part of the neck, and held by the fangs of the brute for about a minute before the attendants could beat the furious animal off. Norwood, on being released, was at once conveyed to the infirmary, where it was found that his injuries were of rather a serious description.

A report comes from Yorkshire to the effect that one William Tracey, an attendant at the North Riding asylum, had charge of a lunatic to give him a bath, but instead of doing this duty himself he left it to be performed by two patients. These unfortunate persons turned on only the boiling water, and put the other lunatic into it. The man's legs were shockingly scalded, but the attendant failed to report the fact, and the patient died of his injuries. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict censuring Tracey, who has been dismissed.

A melancholy suicide has just taken place at Camberwell. A German watch-maker and his wife, being hard pressed for money, took counsel how to cut down their expenses, and it was agreed to drown their little dog, the keep of which cost 7d per week. It was a great pet, but the wife threw it off Southwark Bridge. The loss of the dog seems to have preyed upon her mind, and a few days afterwards it is supposed that she drowned herself, as her body was found in the Thames at Horslydown. At the inquest a verdict of temporary insanity was returned.

Mr George Wheeler, Her Majesty's fisherman at Virginia Water, died at the Fisherman's Cottage, Flying Burn, on the 11th September. He had been in the service of the Queen twenty-eight years, and was previously a waterman in the employ of Mr Hester, boat-builder, Eton. He had taught the young Princes of Cumberland and Cambridge the art of swimming, and was a great favourite of Her Majesty and the royal family, on whom he always attended when they went fishing in any of the waters of the Great Park. Mr Wheeler was about sixty years of age.

Very serious rumours are afloat as to the condition of the Emperor of Russia. Mental alienation—melancholy madness—is attributed to him. He secludes himself for days, refusing to see any one whatever.

Provincial Council of Otago.

SPECIAL SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER.

The Special Session of the Provincial Council was opened on the above date.

At 12 o'clock, the Speaker (Mr W. H. Reynolds) took the chair; all the members being present with the exception of Messrs Bell, France, Fraser, Haughton, Main, and Shepherd.

The galleries were well filled with spectators; and after some preliminary business had been got through, His Honor the Superintendent was introduced and delivered the following address:—

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the Provincial Council:—

I have felt constrained, very reluctantly, to call you together at the present time, knowing as I do, that the attendance of many of you involves considerable inconvenience. I felt, however, that to defer the session until the usual period of meeting would be to postpone the commencement of a work which ought now to have been completed—I allude to the construction of the Southern Trunk Railway.

With regard to this, and the question of Hundreds, as there are differences of opinion between myself and my responsible advisers, I propose to address you by message presently, fully explaining the nature and extent of these differences.

You are no doubt aware that negotiations have been for some time pending between the Government and a number of gentlemen in Dunedin for the construction of a railway between Dunedin and Port Chalmers. These negotiations having fallen through, the Government have accepted the offer of a contracting firm in Dunedin to construct the railway under a guarantee of interest at 8 per cent. on £70,000, to be secured on the Jetty Dues, in terms of your resolution of last session, adequate security to be given by the contractor for the due completion of the work within 18 months. The details of the contract are being prepared, and we may expect the work to be commenced within the next two months.

In compliance with your resolution of last session, three delegates were appointed on behalf of this Province to confer with an equal number representing the Province of Southland, with a view of arranging a basis of re-union between the two Provinces. The report of the Commissioners will be placed before you, as also the resolution of the Provincial Council of Southland, which I am happy to say, has, by a large majority, concurred in the report of the Commissioners. It now depends chiefly upon you to decide whether or not the two Provinces, which never ought to have been separated, shall be re-united and resume those functions of genuine colonisation which were prosecuted with greater vigour prior to the separation than they have been ever since.

To those who take a comprehensive view of the future, it cannot be but a matter of congratulation that two such important Provinces as Otago and Southland should unite of their own free will; and though to some it will no doubt appear that Otago can reap but little advantage from the union, yet I believe that this is a very superficial view of the matter. I am persuaded that under the existing political organisation of the Colony, the magnificent territory which is comprised within the two Provinces, if colonised at all, must be colonised at a great disadvantage unless this re-union is effected.

I am quite prepared to admit that at the outset, perhaps, the pecuniary advantage of re-union will be in favour of Southland; at the same time, however, it cannot be disputed that there will be mutual advantages, and that the assets which Southland will bring into the joint account will amply cover any temporary advances which Otago may be called upon to make.

In dealing with this subject, we must not overlook the fact that Southland is the natural key to a very considerable portion of our territory, and that the proper development of the resources of the one necessarily involves the benefit of the other.

I hail the union of the two Provinces as the first step towards reducing the cost and machinery of government in New Zealand, and as an example which the other Provinces will do well to follow. While upon this subject, I would only further express my conviction that should the proposed union happily be completed, the various districts which at present constitute the Province of Southland will receive the same treatment and consideration at the hands of the Provincial Legislature of Otago as any other district throughout the Province.

Gentlemen—You are doubtless aware that by an Act passed in the last session of the Colonial Parliament, we are empowered to dispose of land on the West Coast of this Province upon terms which it is believed will attract settlement of a suitable kind. The first step to enable me to take action in this matter is your assent to a resolution which will be submitted to you, defining the boundaries within which the Act is to be brought into operation.

In connection with the settlement at Martin's Bay, it is very advisable that a passable road should be formed between the Wakatipu and Kakapo Lakes. In the meantime a bridle-track would suffice. The chief obstacle in the way is the crossing of the Hollyford River. I believe £1000 would suffice in the meantime to open up communication right across the Island. If this were done, it would have the two-fold effect of affording the means of employment to the first settlers at Martin's Bay, and it would lead to a large accession to our mining population from the West Coast. Although it is not proposed to introduce an Appropriation Ordinance during the present session, you might by resolution enable the Government to proceed with this work.

Another subject to which I desire to direct your special attention is the necessity for sending one or more agents to promote the emigration to this Province of suitable labour and capital. I feel strongly that we have not been doing

our duty in this matter, and that the most important function which has been assigned to us—that, namely, of promoting the beneficial occupation of the country—is being to a large extent neglected. I may say that, but for a resolution passed by you last session, steps would have been taken since then largely to increase the stream of population to our shores. It is manifest that without this the vast resources of the Province must continue undeveloped for centuries.

Another very important matter to which I would bespeak your attention, chiefly with a view of bringing public opinion to bear upon it in the General Assembly, is the question of some comprehensive scheme of water supply on the Goldfields. Although, in all probability, we are on the eve of a new phase in the development of our Goldfields, one which, as likely as not, may throw all that has hitherto been done into the shade—I allude to the discovery of numerous gold-bearing quartz reefs—at the same time there is an amount of uncertainty about this description of mining which does not apply to alluvial diggings. With respect to the latter it is well known that the auriferous resources of the Province have been scarcely touched—there are literally mountains of alluvial gold. This is no matter of mere conjecture, the ground having been fully tested. What is wanted to increase our production of gold to an enormous extent is an abundant supply of cheap water, which supply cannot be procured unless by loan, which, unfortunately, we have no power to raise without the sanction of the Colonial Legislature.

Although the policy of the Colony for several years past has been to prohibit loans for reproductive purposes, yet, I believe, we are on the eve of a change in this respect; and that, if the whole of the Otago representatives unite next session, the Province is very likely to succeed in procuring the means of providing water reservoirs on the Goldfields. In order to this, there should be an unmistakable manifestation of public opinion upon the subject, with which view I have thus enlarged upon it.

I must say that I know of no more effective way in which the Colony could improve its position financially than by not only permitting, but encouraging this Province to develop to the fullest extent its Goldfields—Goldfields which, unlike others, have not to be discovered.

There are various other topics of an important nature to which I might refer, but, seeing that you have been called together to consider the special questions to which I have already alluded, I deem it expedient to defer introducing new matter for consideration until next session, which will be held in a few months hence.

I now declare this Council open for the despatch of business.

JAMES MACANDREW,
Superintendent.

His Honor having retired, the sitting was opened with prayer.

Message No. 1 from the Superintendent, accompanied by a mass of correspondence anent the construction of the Southern Trunk Railway, was then read by the Speaker.

Message No. 2 from His Honor, having reference to the annexation with Otago of the Province of Southland, was then read.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr REID gave notice of a motion protesting against the action of the Legislative Assembly in passing the Otago Hundreds Regulation Act.

Mr DRIVER gave notice of the following motion:—"That no further action be taken by the Government in the negotiations for the construction of either the Southern Trunk Railway or Dunedin and Port Chalmers Railway until this Council has had an opportunity of considering the best mode of constructing both works."

Mr BURNS gave notice of a motion having for its object the passing in the Provincial Council of an Ordinance granting an endowment for educational purposes, and conferring upon the Superintendent power to constitute an Education Board, consisting of gentlemen wholly unconnected with the Provincial or Colonial Governments.

Mr MOUNT to move: "That an address be presented to His Honor the Superintendent, recommending that a piece of land containing 600 acres, more or less, 40 chains in width, around the township of Queenstown, be set apart as commonage for the use of the inhabitants of the town."

Mr REID to move: "That an address be presented to His Honor the Superintendent, recommending that 100,000 acres of land at Preservation Inlet, and 100,000 acres at Martin's Bay, be set apart for purposes of settlement and colonisation, in terms of the Otago Settlement Act, 1869 (here follows the description of the areas)."

THE SOUTHERN TRUNK RAILWAY.

Mr BURNS wished to ask, without notice, whether, if there were any documents or correspondence between His Honor the Superintendent and the Southern Trunk Railway Company, the Government would lay them on the table.

Mr REID remarked that he was not aware of there being any Southern Trunk Railway Company.

Mr BURNS referred to the gentlemen alluded to in His Honor's address.

Mr REID replied that some correspondence had taken place, and that it would be placed before the Council as soon as possible.

THE PORT CHALMERS RAILWAY.

Mr REID laid on the table plans and a report in regard to the Port Chalmers railway, forwarded by Mr Millar, engineer, for the information of the Government and the Council.

On the motion of Mr REID, the Council then adjourned till next day at 2 p.m.

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One Chance for Life.

AN AMERICAN DROVER'S STORY.

My friends, you have asked me for a story, and I will point never to refuse so full a favour. I think that this is the best now; and so, without further words, will tell you of an adventure that befel some fifteen years ago, while I was pursuing my avocation in a neighbouring state.

For several years, I had a partner, by the name Frank Brown; and so much were we together that I came to regard him almost as a brother. He had become endeared to me through long association, and also from the fact that in the short space of three weeks from the time the adventure I am about to relate befel me, he was to marry my only sister; and I new of no one in the whole circle of my acquaintances that I would sooner trust her happiness with than with him. Many times when we were buying up that last drove that we bought together, we talked over his plans for the future, which, of course, could not fail to interest me, considering the relation he was soon to assume towards me.

We were very fortunate with that drove. We bought at low prices; and happening to reach the market when it was nearly empty, we realised a large profit. It was with feelings that a man can experience only when he is satisfied with himself and all the world that Frank and I mounted our horses the next morning after our last adventure had been disposed of, and with our pockets well filled, started for home, which we should not be able to reach before late in the second night.

We had ridden for about two hours when we met a man with whom we had had considerable dealings, and with whom I was very anxious to come to a settlement, as he was owing us a large sum, and we had been fearful that we should lose it. The man declared his inability to pay it then, and that he had not that sum of money about him, but that if one of us would return with him to the town we had left that morning he would obtain it for us. This was much better than I expected, and I proposed to Frank that we should go back with him. I saw at a glance that Frank was opposed to this—that he wanted to reach home as soon as possible; and I did not wonder at it, under the circumstances. I knew that my sister would look for his coming with impatience, so I told him to go, while I would return to town, and make a new start next day. As but one of us was needed, this was agreed to, and we separated, I telling Frank that if nothing happened, he might expect me the next day or his arrival at home.

Our debtor was as good as his word, although the settlement was not accomplished until nightfall. I was thus prevented from getting over a portion of the road at night, as I had hoped to have done. At the next morning I was on my way at a reasonable hour; and long before nightfall I had reached a tavern, where Frank and I had purposed passing the night when we had set out the day before.

Upon enquiries, I found that Frank had reached here the preceding day at about the same hour, that he had appeared in a great hurry to get on, and that he had announced his intention of riding some miles further, where, a year or two before, a man had come and opened a small house of entertainment, in the midst of a desolate portion of the country, which, on account of the soil was very sparsely populated. Indeed, the nearest house on either side was upwards of a mile distant; and the most custom that the man obtained was from those whom night overtook before they could get out of "the woods," as the road, for some ten miles was commonly called.

Neither the landlord nor the inn was held in the best repute, and there were stories that would deter a timid man from taking up his abode there for the night were they known to him. Frank and I stopped there once, and had been well cared for; although we, in common with others, had never fancied the landlord.

And now, finding that he had gone on with the intention of passing the previous night there, I determined to do the same, as I should have plenty of time to reach here by dark. With this determination, I allowed my horse to rest a few moments, and then resumed my way; and just as the last ray of sunlight died out of the west, I drew rein in front of the tavern, and was greeted by the landlord, who came out with the ostler, who led my horse up to the stable.

Supper was not long in being placed on the table; and while I was doing ample justice to it, I made enquiries of the landlord, who lingered in the room, about Frank, and I found that he had passed the night there, and had left for home early in the morning. He said that I should be there in the course of the day, and had bid the landlord say to me that he was all right and in good spirits.

After supper over, I lighted my pipe, and, sitting in a high-backed chair, went out and leaned back against the side of the house to indulge in a good smoke, as I usually did before retiring. I had not been there many minutes, before I found myself reflecting upon a large sum I had about me, and the tem-

perament it would be to my host, were the fact known to him; and in a moment all the stories that I had heard to his disadvantage came fresh to my mind, and I almost wished I had resolved to pass the night at the tavern I had left. But there was no help for it now; and these thoughts were soon dissipated by the appearance of the landlord and the ostler equipped for fishing.

In answer to my inquiries, the landlord said there was a deep creek, some half a mile away through the forest, that abounded with eels, and they were going to catch some. Perhaps, he said, I would like to go with them; if so, he could provide me with fishing-tackle and bait. I am a great hand for fishing; and, forgetful of my fatigue, and the fears I had just entertained, I at once accepted his invitation. A few moments after, we were picking our way through the forest by the light of the moon that was just rising above the tree-tops, promising a splendid night.

In a short time, we reached the bank of the creek, which I found to be of considerable size, its sides being covered with large trees, that threw their branches far out over the water that lay so black and sluggish underneath. In many places, the moonbeams could not penetrate the thick foliage, and in others it seemed to turn the torpid water into sheets of flashing silver, which only had the effect of making everything around look more dismal than it otherwise would. The croaking of numerous frogs, and the solemn hooting of an owl, served to depress my feelings; and I thought then, as now, that I never was in a more dismal locality.

We adjusted our fishing rods, and threw our lines into the water. Hardly had my hook sunk beneath the surface, when I felt a bite. A moment later, a noble fish was floundering on the bank; and very soon the landlord had one to keep it company. The sport once begun, all other thoughts left my mind; and I went into it with a will. Half a dozen fish were squirming in the basket, when I, from accident or design on the part of my companions, chanced to be ahead, and came to a quantity of drift-wood that reached entirely across the creek, left there by some heavy freshet, which, the banks of the creek bore evidence, was of frequent occurrence.

Here, I thought, would be an extra chance for fishing; as, without doubt, the water beneath the drift-wood was deeper, and better suited to them.

Stepping carefully upon the logs, I walked out a short distance, and threw my line into the water, and allowed it to sink for quite a distance below the surface, while I stood still, watching for a bite, and wondering why it was that the landlord did not join me; as I was very sure he must be standing but a little way off, in the dark shadow of the trees. And the ostler, too, was close at hand; as I had heard the underbrush crackling beneath his feet but a short distance behind.

I felt a fish nibbling at my hook; and, giving a sudden pull, I attempted to swing him above my head. But he was off; while I found that my hook had become entangled in something near the bottom. Fearful of losing the hook, I pulled slowly, and found that I had hooked into something that was not immovable, but that I was slowly bringing it to the surface.

The moon was shining brightly where I stood; and, kneeling down upon the log on which I had obtained a foothold, I pulled slowly and steadily, until the object was near the surface. Then I placed one hand in the water, and followed down the line, until I came to the hook, fast in something that felt, to my touch, like soft leather. Another movement, and it appeared above the surface; and, to my horror, I saw that I was grasping a man's hand.

A cry of horror trembled upon my lips; but it seemed frozen there, for the black water parted, as if by an invisible power, and there, in the bright moonlight, I saw a human face, all black and hideous, but one that I could never mistake—that of my friend and companion, whom I imagined safe at home, Frank Brown!

Never, to my dying day, shall I forget that face, framed as it was in those dark, sluggish waters. Even now, I know not how long I looked upon it; but I was roused by the sharp click of a pistol-lock, and glanced about to see, almost beside me, the gleam of a barrel in the moonbeams, held in the hand of the landlord, and pointed towards my breast. There was a look like that of a fiend upon his face, and an oath trembled upon his lips, when the pistol missed fire.

There is nothing swifter than thought; and I saw but one chance for my life then. To think and act was one; and I plunged into the dark water, striking the body of my friend as I went down, while a bullet cut the water close to my head. In those days I was a famous swimmer; and to that I owe my life. There were but few men who could remain under water longer than myself; and, as soon as I touched the bottom, I made the best of my way up the stream, keeping towards the side where the shadows were the darkest, and where I hoped, in the gloom, they would not notice the bubbles that would rise to the surface. As long as it was possible for me to re-

main without breaking, I made my way up the creek; and then I slowly rose to the surface, and found myself near to the bank, and in the deep shadow of the overhanging trees. Grasping a branch that was dipping into the water, I remained station-ary, and listened. In a moment I heard the voice of the landlord but a short distance from me.

"Look sharp, Jim. We must get our clutches on that chap, or this part of the country will be too hot to hold us."

"Yes; and there is the money he has in his pocket. But what do you suppose sent that dead man from the bottom of the creek to face him? Had it not been for that, we should have had him, sure. How that dead man looked as he went down again!"

"Never mind the dead man, Jim; it's the live one we are looking for now; though I am not sure but what my bullet went through him. Do you go up as far as that big branch dips that in the water, and if you see no signs, we'll then go down the stream."

The branch he mentioned I had no doubt was the one to which I was clinging; and no sooner did the words fall on my ears than I let go my hold, and sank again to the bottom of the creek, there to remain as long as it was possible for me to exist without air.

When next I came to the surface, I could hear the sound of voices further down the stream; and I knew they were searching for me below the drift-wood. Now was my chance for escape, and I at once took advantage of it. Cautiously I drew myself upon the bank, and then noiselessly took my way through the forest towards the tavern, which I reached in a short time.

Making my way to the stable, I soon had my horse saddled and bridled; and, springing upon its back, I dashed down the road. But I was not a moment too soon, as a bullet abundantly testified as it whistled past my head. Glancing round, I saw both the villains plainly in the moonlight: they had followed, but were a moment too late.

I was not long in reaching the nearest town, some five miles distant, where I aroused the people and told them my story; and soon a large party was collected to return with me to the scene of my adventures. In the early dawn we reached the house, and took the women we found there into custody. The men were missing; but before nightfall they were arrested some ten miles distant, and in a few moments paid the penalty of their crimes on the gallows. The body of Frank was recovered from the creek, and given a Christian burial; but to this day I seem to see his face as it looked out to me through the waters.

Swimmers' Cramp.

(The Lancet.)

On a fine summer's day some men are bathing in the sea. One of them, an excellent swimmer, suddenly cries out, "I'm drowning!" sinks, and is no more seen until his dead body floats ashore some hours afterwards. How is this terribly sudden drowning to be explained? The victim is generally said to have been attacked by cramp, and manuals advert to the subject, and direct the swimmer who is so seized to thrust his leg out violently, and forcibly bend his foot upwards. The explanation seems to be generally accepted, but it does not really explain this mysterious sinking. We do not need to ask a good swimmer whether cramp in the leg, however severe, would cause him to sink suddenly, and without a struggle, in the sea. It is impossible. The human body is specifically lighter than sea water, and so much lighter that sea water that no effort is required to preserve it from sinking in that fluid. The swimmer seized with leg cramp would instinctively throw his head back as far as it would go, conscious that he might remain afloat in this position without the need of moving a muscle. The unfortunate swimmer who drowns under these circumstances always goes down suddenly, and without a struggle. This signifies that the body suddenly becomes heavier than water. This it can only do by losing the air which is contained within the cavity of the chest, and the probability seems to be that the cramp which happens is a cramp of the respiratory muscles, by which the expansion of the lungs is prevented or their air forced out. Death would then occur as it often takes place in tetanus. This is a subject which has strangely escaped notice. The feeling of insecurity which these cases occasion to swimmers is terrible. Could we but ascertain the exact circumstances, it is conceivable that some measures might be devised by which their occurrence could be prevented. It must be remembered that swimming implies a very much more violent muscular exercise than is apt to appear. It seems probable—though it is by no means certain—that the muscles of respiration, which are powerfully employed in swimming, may occasionally be seized with cramp as a result of unusual exertion, with the effect of causing compression of the chest. If such be the case, it is tolerably certain that regular and graduated gymnastic exercise would be the surest safeguard against an affection of muscles arising from their being suddenly called upon to perform unusual exertion of a severe character.

Across Niagara on a Bicycle.

This feat was announced by Professor Jenkins to be accomplished on the 25th of August, and accomplished it was, in the presence of a vast crowd, a thousand feet of good two-inch rope being stretched across the stream below Suspension-bridge, and where Blondin crossed with a man on his back. *The New York Times* says:—"The machine used by Professor Jenkins is not in any sense a velocipede. It is, however, a bicycle, and, turned upside down, would in some degree resemble a modern velocipede. The wheels, three inches wide, are made heavy, and of wood, without tires, but in their places are grooves an inch and three quarters deep. The front wheel is 3ft. 2in. and the hind wheel 2ft. 10in. in diameter. The connecting rods are iron, so also the balance-pole, which is 8ft. long, and tipped with 10lb. balls, and weighs 28lb. The whole thing, with the man thrown in, weighs 238lb. The propelling power is a pinion cog-wheel made of brass, about nine inches in diameter, which is made to gear to cogs which surround the front wheel at the bottom of the groove. At 2.30 p.m. the Professor made his appearance on the Canada side with the pieces of his machine, and at once proceeded to put them together—a task of no small labour. With the aid of his men, he first placed the fore wheel on the rope just at the edge of the precipice, and while a man balanced it, another braced on the standard from the under side, thus bringing two strong bars of iron on either side of the rope. All the joints were securely fastened with bolts. The braces, or connecting rods, extending from the standard to the rear shaft in the form of the letter O, made the connection very complete, and very strong. The Professor then got outside of the rope, arranged the pinion-wheel, and fastened the balance-pole across the O part of the braces. This done, the seat, a strip of leather, was secured to the rear axle by means of straps. This arrangement, which it was seen at once would throw the entire weight of the machine and the rider under the rope, was a source of disappointment, if not of relief, to many of the spectators, who, not consulting the inventive genius of the Canadian Blondin, rather expected to see him mounted on a Green-wood velocipede, which, of course, would give a good chance for ground and lofty tumbling. All being in readiness, the bicycle was fastened by a rope to the bank, and Jenkins prepared to start. He wore white tights, black velvet knee breeches, shoulder straps and cross belts of the same material, and on his head was placed a crown-shaped hat, and all were profusely bedecked with tinsel and beads. His feet were covered with buff moccasins. He took his position astride the rope, and proceeded to arrange the leather strap or seat, which, as it was allowed to touch the rope, seemed more for the purpose of protecting the velvet pants from damage by attrition than to sit upon. In fact he did not sit, but stood up, with his feet about 18 inches apart, resting on the balance-pole. In a moment he grasped the handles of the pinion wheel, and turned them, moving slowly from the bank, the crowd preserving a death-like stillness. After passing out a few yards, a halt was made, and the photographers were allowed to take his picture. He then returned and waited five or ten minutes, and resumed his seat. Three pistol shots were then fired from the Canadian side, and it was a "go." The machine moved slowly forward, the rope swaying gently from side to side until he had passed out about 50ft, when another opportunity was given the artist, after which he crawled along at a snail's pace to the middle of the abyss, where he raised and waved his hat, and received a faint cheer in response. From the centre to the American shore, it was evidently hard work to propel the bicycle, but at last the edge of the cliff was reached, and then the welkin did ring with the applause of the people. The time occupied in passing over the rope was just eleven minutes.

The Alaska Indians are becoming civilised under the influence of a newspaper. *The Alaska Times* says:—"An intelligent looking Indian came into our office and wished to know the price of our paper. We told him very friendly, and felt somewhat anxious to know what he wanted with a paper. He replied, in rather good English, 'You never mind. I go to Victoria—higoo white men read him, and speak me Indian, me plenty understand. How much the paper, sir?' We told him nothing, and presented him with a copy of the *Alaska Times*. He did not seem satisfied, and promptly asked the price of ten. We told him, and he instantly paid for ten copies, but he must have abundance of sealing-wax, which we gave him. He then said, 'White man pay you three months—me pay same,' and planked down enough of furs to pay six months subscription. He is the finest Indian subscriber we have. He said his name was 'Klitch-a-ta-noo.'"

The Paris *Figaro* makes the rather startling announcement of a great scandal about to be brought to light, in which a priest and a doctor are implicated. The only portion of the mystery as yet revealed is that a *post mortem* examination was commenced to soon, and that the victim cried out under the knife.

Selected Poetry.

THE PLEASURES OF MATRIMONY.

Happy that man must pass his life
Who's free from matrimonial chains—
Who is directed by a wife
Is sure to suffer for his pains.

What tongue is able to unfold
The falsehoods that in women dwell;
The worth in women we behold
Is almost imperceptible.

Adam could find no soul to peace
When Eve was given for a mate;
Until he saw a woman's face
Adapa was in a happy state.

They're always studying to employ
Their time in idleness, late, and lies;
Their leisure hours in virtuous joy
To spend ne'er in their thoughts arise.

Destruction seize the men, I say,
Who in women place their delight—
Who no regard to women pay,
Keep reason always in their sight.

NOTE.—By reading each verse of the above in the following order, viz.—First line, third line, second line, fourth line—it will be seen that the sense (or nonsense) is entirely changed. The reader will of course perceive the impossibility of punctuating the piece for both ways of reading, and for this allowance must be made.

Wit and Humour.

Why is a hen immortal?—Because her *own* never sets.

The song of the netted herring.—"Let me like a soldier fall."

Why are you so late this morning, you varmint?" we asked our boy. He answered, "Cos I held the candle till midnight for mother, who sat up mending stockings. She says she saw a book in the shop-window that says, 'It's never too late to mend.'"

A witness who had been cautioned to give a precise answer to every question, and not talk about what he might think the question meant, was interrogated as follows:—"You drive a waggon?"—"No, sir, I do not."—"Why, sir, did you not tell my learned friend so this moment?"—"No, sir, I did not."—"Now, sir, I put it to you on your oath, do you not drive a waggon?"—"No, sir."—"What is your occupation, then?"—"I drive a horse, sir."

'Bus driver to conductor of opposition 'bus— "I've knowed yer ever since you was born. I knowed yer poor mother; she had two on yer that time. One was a werry nice little boy; t'other was a half idiot—a sort of brown paper feller. The werry nice little boy died werry young, he did."

A WICKED FRAUD.

It is seldom pleasant to one's own feelings to tell on one's self, but sometimes it is a sort of relief to a man's feelings to make a *sort* of confession. I wish to unburden my mind now, and yet I almost believe that I am moved to do it more because I long to bring censure upon another man than because I desire to pour balm upon my own wounded heart. (I don't know what balm is, but I believe it is the correct expression to use in this connection—never having seen balm.) You may remember that I lectured in Newark lately for the young men of the Claytontian Society? I did, at any rate. During the afternoon of that day, I was talking with one of the young gentlemen just referred to, and he said he had an uncle, who, from some cause or other, seemed to have grown permanently bereft of any emotion. And, with tears in his eyes, this young man said—

"Oh, if I could only see him laugh once more! Oh, if I could only see him weep!"

I was touched. I never could withstand distress. I said—

"Bring him to my lecture. I'll start him for you."

"Oh, if you could but do it! If you could but do it, all our family would bless you for evermore, for he is very dear to us. Oh, my benefactor, can you make him laugh? Can you bring soothing tears to those parched lips?"

I was profoundly moved. I said—

"My son, bring the old party round. I have got some jokes in that lecture that will make him laugh if there is any laugh in him; and if they miss fire, I have some others that'll make him cry or kill him, one or the other."

Then the young man blessed me, and wept on my neck, and I went after his uncle. He placed him in full view, in the second row of benches that night, and I began on him. I tried him with mild jokes, then with severe ones; I dosed him with bad jokes, and riddled him with good ones; I fired old jokes into him, and peppered him fore and aft with red-hot new ones. I warmed up to my work, and assailed him on the right and left, before and behind; I fumed and sweated, and chafed and roared, till I was hoarse and sick, and frantic and furious; but I never moved him once—never started a smile or a tear! Never a ghost of a smile, and never a suspicion of moisture! I was astounded. I closed the lecture at last with one despairing shriek—with one will burst of humour—and hurled a joke of supernatural atrocity full at him. I never played him! Then I sat down, bewildered and exhausted.

The president of the society came up, and bathed my head with cold water, and said—

"What made you carry on so towards the last?"

I said—"I was trying to make that confounded old fool in the second row laugh."

And he said—"Well, you were wasting your time, because he is deaf and dumb, and as blind as a badger."

Now was that any way for that old man's nephew to impose on a stranger and an orphan like me? I simply ask you, as a man and a brother, if that was any way for him to do?

MARK TWAIN.

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